



Report summary for parents and carers on Grace House

Date of inspection: April 2024

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Overview

Grace House is a nurturing and welcoming school. It is led effectively, with robust processes in place for quality assurance activities and safeguarding processes. The headteacher is supported by a small, dedicated team of teaching staff, who strive for the best outcomes both academically and pastorally for the pupils in their care.

The proprietor plays an active role in the life of the school. They have a strong understanding of the school's strengths and areas of development. The proprietor provides valuable support to the headteacher and is actively involved in all aspects of the school's work including improvement planning, recruitment, professional learning opportunities and quality assurance.

Across all aspects of the curriculum, teaching staff provide interesting and imaginative learning experiences. As a result, pupils engage successfully with their learning and make progress from their starting points. However, the use of the school's on-site outdoor areas to extend learning opportunities is underdeveloped.

The school's 'Wellbeing for Life' programme is a notable strength of the school. It successfully supports pupils to develop their knowledge of the wider world and develop beneficial and meaningful skills, preparing them well for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life.

The school has strong provision for careers guidance, which is well embedded. Pupils are provided with clear advice on their next steps, the skills and qualifications they may need to achieve for the next stage of their education or to go into the work place.

The school provides effective professional learning for staff, which includes opportunities to gain external qualifications, for example the National Professional Qualifications (NPQ's). Whole-school professional learning sessions, completed alongside other schools within the proprietor's group, support improvement to the quality of teaching and link appropriately to school development priorities.

The positive working relationship and communication between school and residential staff is a notable strength. Regular meetings occur between teaching staff, residential staff and members of the therapy team to discuss pupil progress and adjust the provision where necessary.

The school complies with all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024.

Recommendations

R1 Further develop the outdoor area to provide more opportunities to develop and support pupils' well-being and learning needs

Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The provision of information

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

What happens next

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

School context

Name of provider	Grace House
Proprietor	Educ8, part of the Your Chapter Ltd Group
Local authority	Powys County Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent special
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	3
Pupils of statutory school age	3
Start date of inspection	22/04/2024
<p>Grace House is an independent special school that provides education and care for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs. The school is owned by Educ8, part of the Your Chapter Ltd Group, a specialist children's services agency that has independent special schools and care homes across England and Wales.</p> <p>The school provides educational placements for girls aged between 11 and 18 years of age. Currently, there are three pupils on roll. Pupils who attend the school are resident in the linked children's home that shares the site.</p> <p>The staff team comprises a headteacher supported by a teacher and an instructor. The headteacher has been in post since September 2023.</p>	

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