



Report summary for parents and carers on Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen

Date of inspection: April 2024

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

This report is also available in Welsh.

Overview

Pupils at Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen are welcoming and warm, engage enthusiastically with visitors and are proud members of their local community. Many behave well in lessons and around the school and are respectful of others. Most say that they are not bullied and many say that they feel safe at school. Pupils' attendance has improved this year but continues to be a cause for concern, particularly for vulnerable pupils and those who are eligible for free school meals.

In a majority of lessons, pupils make at least suitable progress. In these lessons, teachers plan useful activities and provide an appropriate level of challenge. However, in a minority of lessons, pupils do not make enough progress due to shortcomings in teaching. In these cases, planning is not secure enough and the level of challenge is not suitable.

The curriculum is broad and balanced and there is a clear vision for Curriculum for Wales. Provision to provide experiences and opportunities for pupils is a clear strength. Pupils benefit from a myriad of cultural, social, creative and sporting opportunities. They also benefit from useful provision for making decisions about the next stages in their lives. Provision to develop pupils' literacy and digital skills is developing well. Provision for their numeracy skills is beginning to develop but interventions for pupils with weak basic numeracy skills are limited.

Staff demonstrate obvious care for pupils and focus on supporting their well-being. Although there are strengths in provision for supporting pupils' well-being, oversight of this area is not sufficiently robust. In particular, provision to support pupils with additional learning needs has not been developed sufficiently, particularly in terms of tracking their progress. In addition, the whole-school overview of provision for well-being is not sufficiently incisive to be able to identify areas for improvement specifically enough. As a result, support for a few pupils is not effective enough and the work of leaders does not have enough of an impact on improving aspects such as attendance.

Leaders are successful in promoting a strong sense of Welshness and a feeling of belonging to the local area, together with providing rich experiences for pupils. They also respond firmly to a number of national priorities. The senior management team works conscientiously, but there is too much of an overlap in terms of their responsibilities and it is not always clear who has strategic responsibility for particular areas. Although there is a suitable system for self-evaluation activities, leaders do not always triangulate findings from these activities or analyse evidence from these processes well enough. As a result, they do not identify the exact aspects that need to be addressed and implementation of actions is not effective enough to ensure improvement. Governors are very supportive of the school and work diligently to fulfil their role, but the information they receive does not always enable them to challenge the school fully. The school shares information about its arrangements appropriately, but parents and staff do not always feel that the communication is adequate.

Recommendations

- R1 Improve provision for pupils with additional learning needs and vulnerable pupils, along with strategic overview of that provision
- R2 Improve self-evaluation and planning for improvement
- R3 Strengthen strategic leadership to cover all of the school's key work
- R4 Improve pupils' attendance, including that of groups of pupils, and the strategic work to do so
- R5 Improve the quality of teaching and assessment

What happens next

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, HMCI is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement. The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. A small team of Estyn inspectors will visit the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report.



School context

Name of provider	Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen
Local authority	Cyngor Gwynedd
Language of the provider	Welsh
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	926
Pupils of statutory school age	787
Number in sixth form	139
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average (The national percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals over a three-year average in Secondary is 21.2%)	15.8%
Percentage of pupils identified as having additional learning needs (a) (The national percentage of pupils identified as having an additional learning need in Secondary is 14.8%)	18.2%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	89.6%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2019
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	07/03/2016
Start date of inspection	22/04/2024

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