



**Annual monitoring inspection report on**

**Bryn Tirion Hall School**

**Date of inspection: February 2015**

**by**

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education  
and Training in Wales**

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**Publication date: 10/04/2015**

## Context

Bryn Tirion Hall School is located in a large country house in a rural area between Wrexham and Flintshire. The school grounds are extensive and provide pupils with a peaceful outdoor space.

The school has places for 24 pupils, with 10 residential places available at the children's home. There are currently seventeen pupils on the school roll with an age range between seven and seventeen years. Seven of these live in the children's home. Thirteen pupils have statements of special educational needs.

The school has recently completed a restructure of the senior management team and increased its staffing to include a business manager, a part-time science teacher and a full-time primary teacher.

## Main findings

### Strengths

#### The school's strengths are that:

- Teachers use interesting and stimulating activities that engage pupils in their learning. They plan lessons around current themed topics to develop key skills and general knowledge. This approach promotes pupils' interest and motivation well.
- Most pupils communicate clearly with accuracy and fluency. They use an appropriate range of vocabulary for their age and ability and develop their thinking skills well. In relevant subjects, they use prediction and deduction skills with confidence.
- Pupils develop their social and life skills well. They are respectful to each other, to staff and to visitors to the school.
- Over time, pupils learn valuable skills in how to manage their emotions and behaviour.
- Pupils are developing their understanding of global citizenship well through the schools links with an international charitable organisation. This has enabled pupils to undertake voluntary work in Uganda and there are plans for another two pupils to join the initiative later this year.

### Areas for development

#### The school's areas for development are that:

- The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils do not fully meet requirements:
- There is a conflict of interest in relation to the school's named safeguarding officers.
- The safeguarding policy does not include clear contact details for the safeguarding officers.

- The safeguarding policy does not include a clear route for staff to follow in the event of an allegation against the headteacher or safeguarding officers.
- There are no clear links between the safeguarding policy, the anti-bullying policy and the behaviour policy.
- The school's behaviour policy is not sufficiently comprehensive. It does not consider current Welsh Government guidance or state clearly enough the approaches used at the school to promote appropriate behaviour.
- The school does not have an efficient system for analysing data on pupils' behaviour. This means that they are not able to identify patterns of behaviour and to address recurrent issues.

## **Recommendations**

### **The school should:**

- R1 Address the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003
- R2 Make sure that relevant policies link together
- R3 Amend the behaviour policy to reflect the practices at the school including the system for rewards and sanctions
- R4 Analyse the trends and patterns of pupils' behaviour to evaluate the impact of school strategies

**Progress in addressing recommendations from previous note of visit or inspection report**

**Recommendation 1: comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003**

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

In relation to the lack of compliance identified during the inspection, the school has taken appropriate action to address this recommendation. The existing oil storage tanks have been replaced with a larger capacity, double bunded, modern tank. This new tank has been relocated to a more appropriate location within the grounds.

**Recommendation 2: continue to develop the process of self-evaluation and ensure that it leads to more effective strategic planning**

This recommendation has been largely addressed.

The school self-evaluation report is appropriately reflective and identifies suitable areas for improvement. However, in a few areas it is too descriptive. The school improvement plan is comprehensive and links well to the self-evaluation report.

**Recommendation 3: plan more effectively to develop pupils' key skills in subjects across the curriculum**

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

The school has developed a cohesive approach to the improvement of pupils' key skills. The lesson plan format has been revised and all lessons now have an appropriate focus on the development of pupils' thinking skills, application of number, information and communication technology (ICT) and communication.

**Recommendation 4: provide more opportunities for pupils to have access to scientific learning experiences**

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

The school has employed a specific, qualified teacher for science and all pupils have access to a weekly science lesson as part of their curriculum. Pupils have suitable opportunities to work towards GCSE in science.

**Recommendation 5: develop more effective partnerships with other schools to ensure that staff are able to develop their knowledge and expertise through sharing good practice**

This recommendation has been partly addressed.

The school has further developed their partnership with a local primary school. However, plans for teachers to visit other schools to observe best practice are underdeveloped.

## **Compliance with the standards for registration**

### **Standard 1: The quality of education provided by the school**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Standard 2: The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Standard 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school does not fully meet the regulatory requirements for this standard. In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school should:

- prepare and implement written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school in compliance with Welsh Assembly Government Circular 005/2008 [3(2b)]

### **Standard 4: The suitability of proprietors and staff**

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 4.

### **Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 5.

### **Standard 6: The provision of information**

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 6.

### **Standard 7: The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

On this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 7.

## Recommendation regarding registration

When considering this school's registration the National Assembly for Wales may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

The school does not currently meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. To comply fully with these requirements, the school should address the issues identified above for each standard.

Inspectors' judgements on this annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

## School information

<b>School</b>	Bryn Tirion Hall School
<b>School number</b>	664 6005
<b>Purpose of visit</b>	Annual monitoring inspection
<b>Date of visit</b>	04/02/2015
<b>Proprietor</b>	QEW Ltd
<b>Staff</b>	Deputy headteacher; 4 full-time teachers; 1 part-time teacher and teaching assistants
<b>Number of pupils</b>	17 on roll
<b>Provision</b>	Day provision linked to children's home
<b>Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school</b>	Social emotional and behavioural difficulties(SEBD); attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); epilepsy; dyslexia; autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
<b>Last Section 163 inspection</b>	01/09/2013
<b>Last annual monitoring inspection</b>	23/02/2012
<b>Last CSSIW inspection</b>	01/12/2014

## Team information

Mrs Gill Sims	Reporting Inspector
Mrs Caroline Rees	Team Inspector