



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

A report on

Dan Y Coed

Date of inspection: October 2019

by

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

About Dan Y Coed

Dan y Coed is an independent special school situated in the West Cross area of Swansea. The school opened in November 2017 and is part of the Orbis Education and Care group.

The school is in a large detached property with easy access to the Mumbles coastline and the city of Swansea. The school has undergone significant building work to extend the school buildings. This work includes the development of residential provision, which is now complete and registered to provide a twenty-bed, 52-week provision.

The school is registered to admit up to thirty pupils aged 5-19 with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). Currently, there are fifteen pupils attending the school of which eleven are day placements and four reside in the on-site residential provision. All pupils have a statement of special educational needs or Education Health Care Plan (ECHP) and English as their first language. A few pupils have looked after status. Pupils are placed at the school from local authorities in Wales and England.

The head of education has been in post since September 2017. This is the school's first annual monitoring visit.

Main findings

Strengths

Nearly all pupils make strong progress in their ability to participate in learning activities and engagement with others. This is seen through improved pupil attendance, and a reduction in incidents of challenging behaviours.

All pupils benefit from the robust collaborative working relationships between school staff, care home staff, and the on-site clinical team. As a result, staff have a clear understanding of the needs of each pupil and provide effective strategies to meet these needs.

The headteacher provides strong leadership across the school. Leadership has been strengthened by the addition of two senior teachers who each have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. They are beginning to influence the work of the school specifically in assessment and curriculum and pupil voice and wellbeing.

As the school has increased in pupil numbers, additional staff have been employed. A robust staff induction programme fully supports the transition of staff into the school, minimising the impact of change for the pupils.

The school meets all of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003 inspected during this visit.

Areas for development

Staff at the school have reviewed the curriculum model and as a result, are implementing a new approach to meet the diverse range of needs and abilities of the pupils. However, it is too early to evaluate the impact of this currently.

The school has recently changed the pupil tracking system to reflect the changes in the curriculum model. The new tracking system is rolling out across the school. However, it is too early to evaluate the impact of this currently.

Recommendations

The school should:

R1. Evaluate the impact of the curriculum model

R2. Evaluate the impact of the pupil tracking system

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, 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

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 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 Welsh Government may wish to have regard to the following recommendation:

On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not meet the requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

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

Copies of the report

Copies of this report are available from the school and from the Estyn website (www.estyn.gov.wales)

The report was produced in accordance with section 163 of the Education Act 2002. The main purpose of inspection under this section is to report on compliance with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2003. In schools that provide non-maintained nursery education, this report also satisfies the requirements of Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of going to press. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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