



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

A report on

Carla House School

Date of inspection: February 2023

by

Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

and Training in Wales

About Carla House School

Carla House School is an independent special school in a rural setting near Wrexham.

The school is owned by Your Chapter, a company providing education, care and therapy. Pupils who attend the school are resident in the on-site children's home. The school provides education for a maximum of five girls aged 11 to 18 years with a range of social, emotional, and behavioural needs. Currently, there are three pupils on roll.

The headteacher has been in post since October 2022. The work of the school is overseen by an executive regional head of education and director of education, both of whom started their roles this academic year.

Main findings

Strengths

Carla House is a warm and welcoming school. Staff develop positive relationships with pupils and have a sound understanding of their interests and aspirations. Pupils respond well to this approach and learn to recognise their own strengths. As a result, they develop their self-confidence and self-esteem suitably.

Pupils benefit from individualised learning tailored to their interests, needs and future plans. For example, they choose to complete a course in British Sign Language and access sessions at a music studio. Pupils make appropriate progress during their time at the school.

The school provides beneficial careers education for pupils. Pupils engage positively with these sessions and develop a clear understanding of their future aspirations and how to achieve these.

Areas for development

Since the beginning of the academic year, there has been a period of significant instability, with changes to teaching and leadership staff at all levels. Leaders' systems and processes that evaluate the work of the school lack rigour. For example, there are insufficient quality assurance processes and inaccuracies in record keeping.

Due to the instability in the staff team, there is an inconsistent approach to the support for and challenge of pupils in lessons. As a result, pupils do not always make sufficient progress.

A few school policies are too generic and do not reflect the particular context of the school well enough. Overall, policies do not have sufficient regard to Welsh Government guidance.

Recommendations

The school should:

- R1 Strengthen strategic oversight of the school to ensure that the headteacher is suitably supported and challenged
- R2 Improve teaching so that it challenges and supports all pupils consistently
- R3 Ensure that all policies and procedures reflect the specific context of the school and make suitable reference to Welsh Government guidance

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 this visit, Estyn did not inspect Standard 2.

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

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

Recommendation regarding continued 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 (<http://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 publication. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

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