



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

**Annual monitoring inspection report on
St David's College**

Date of inspection: March 2017

by

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

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Context

St David's College is an independent day and boarding school that educates boys and girls from age 9 to 19 years. The school is located in extensive grounds just south of Llandudno in North Wales.

The school opened in 1965, as an educational charity established by Trust Deed, in order to provide secondary education within a Christian framework. The school's philosophy is to provide a 'whole person' education. It aims 'to keep intellectual, physical and spiritual development in balance and to guide each pupil appropriately'. The school is administered by a board of governors.

There are currently 225 pupils on roll. St David's College educates pupils with a broad range of abilities. Sixteen per cent of pupils have a statement of special educational needs.

The headteacher was appointed in January 2009. The last full inspection was in October 2012.

Main findings

Strengths

Pupils have a positive attitude towards their learning and engage enthusiastically in all lessons and activities.

Pupils are supportive of each other. They behave well and are polite and courteous to visitors.

Teachers know their pupils well and create a positive learning environment. Specialist support teachers provide highly effective 1:1 support to pupils.

Both primary and secondary subject specialists deliver the curriculum for Years 5 and 6. This gives pupils good opportunities to use specialist facilities and broadens their subject knowledge.

The school offers an extensive range of exciting extra-curricular activities. Senior leaders have a clear understanding of the strengths and areas for development of the school.

Areas for development

There is too much variation in the content of schemes of work. In the best examples, there is clear identification of a range of activities, assessment arrangements and opportunities to develop pupils' skills. In a few subjects, there is an over use of worksheets that limits pupils' opportunities for independent writing.

The quality of pupils' work in subjects across the curriculum is inconsistent. The school has improved the processes for lesson observations and book scrutiny. Although these focus suitably on both standards and teaching, the written reports do not always provide enough evaluative detail. They therefore have limited impact on raising standards and improving teaching.

Recommendations

- R1 Ensure greater consistency in the quality of pupils' work in subjects across the curriculum
- R2 Improve the monitoring of standards and provision across the curriculum in Years 5 and 6
- R3 Ensure that all schemes of work are of a good quality and include the range of activities, assessment arrangements and opportunities to develop skills
- R4 Provide more evaluative detail in lesson observations and book scrutiny so as to have more impact on raising standards

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

Recommendation 1: Improve the lesson observation process to include an evaluation of the standards that pupils achieve

This recommendation has been largely addressed.

Senior leaders have recently introduced a new lesson observation form. The new form requires the observer to comment on the standard of work produced by pupils. This includes comments on the standards of pupils' literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) skills when appropriate.

However, the quality of evaluative comments made on these forms varies too much.

Recommendation 2: Develop effective record-keeping processes to ensure that policy documents are kept up to date and reflect the latest Welsh Government guidance

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

The school reviews all policy documents regularly to ensure that they are up to date. All policies now contain a review date and identify the member of staff and governor responsible for updating the document.

The school has identified where guidance from the Welsh Government is available to ensure that all policies reflect the most recent requirements.

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

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

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:

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 annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full Section 163 inspection.

School information

School	St David's College
School number	6626017
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	15/03/2017
Proprietor	St David's College Trust Chair of Governors Mr Tim Vince
Staff	1 headteacher 1 bursar and clerk to governors 5 members of senior management team 35 fulltime teachers (including 4 house parents) 22 parttime teachers 4 residential assistants 1 junior Matron/KS2 teaching assistant
Number of pupils	225
Provision	Independent co-educational school, offering boarding and day places to pupils between the ages of 9 and 19 years with a wide range of abilities and needs.
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the school	Dyslexia predominantly. Also, dyspraxia/development coordination disorder (DCD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) , Speech and Language
Last Section 163 inspection	01/10/2012
Last annual monitoring inspection	01/09/2015
Last CSSIW inspection	01/02/2016

Team information

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