



## Report summary for parents and carers on Eirias High School

**Date of inspection: November 2022**

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

# Overview

Ysgol Eirias is a caring and inclusive community which provides a welcoming environment for pupils, staff and visitors. Pupils' emotional health and well-being is a key priority, and this is promoted well through day-to-day activities and the school's pastoral care system. As a result, most pupils behave well and treat their peers and others with respect and care.

Leaders have successfully created a strong culture for safeguarding within the school and relationships between staff and pupils are positive. Consequently, most pupils feel safe at school, and that they would have a trusted adult to which they could turn to should they need support. The school works well with outside agencies to ensure that most pupils have returned to school following the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this work has not had sufficient impact on the attendance of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. Although the school has sound arrangements to safeguard pupils, a few health and safety matters were raised with the school during the inspection.

The school is well led by the headteacher and the senior leadership team. There are clear lines of accountability which ensure that leaders and staff take full responsibility for the impact of provision within their areas of responsibility. Governors take an active role in the leadership of the school and provide a good balance of support and challenge to leaders.

Leaders at all levels know the school well. They have a suitable understanding of the main strengths and areas for improvement, identify development priorities suitably, and plan well for improvement. However, leaders do not always evaluate the quality of the provision for skills precisely enough, by considering its impact on the standards of pupils' work.

The professional development of staff is a strength of the school. Leaders have built a culture of reflection within the school where staff regularly participate in valuable research and training activities to improve their practice. As a result, teaching is effective in many instances and this ensures that pupils make secure progress in their subject skills and knowledge. However, teachers' feedback to pupils is not precise enough and, too often, this does not support improvement in their work.

There are valuable opportunities for pupils to develop their numeracy skills, both within mathematics and in other relevant subjects. The school offers beneficial opportunities for pupils to develop their thinking skills, their physical skills and their creativity. However, in general, pupils do not have enough worthwhile opportunities to develop their advanced reading, extended writing and digital skills.

The school's curriculum builds well on pupils' prior learning and there is a wide range of courses available. The school offers a wide and varied range of extra-curricular trips and clubs, especially sports clubs, where rates of participation are particularly high. The sixth form contribute well to the life of the school, and pupils in the sixth form generally make strong progress.

# Recommendations

- R1 Improve provision for the progressive development of pupils' literacy and digital skills
- R2 Strengthen improvement processes so that they focus sharply on the impact of learning opportunities on the development of pupils' skills
- R3 Improve the quality and impact of assessment and feedback
- R4 Improve the attendance of pupils who are eligible for free school meals
- R5 Address the health and safety concerns shared with the school during the inspection

## What happens next

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.



## School context

Name of provider	Eirias High School
Local authority	Conwy County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Secondary
Number of pupils on roll	1293
Pupils of statutory school age	1063
Number in sixth form	231
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 18.5%)	15.7%
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 23.0%)	12.3%
Percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home	4.7%
Percentage of pupils with English as an additional language	2.0%
Date of headteacher appointment	01/09/2017
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	01/10/2014
Start date of inspection	28/11/2022

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