



# Report summary for parents and carers on Carla House School

**Date of inspection: June 2024**

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

# Overview

Carla House School is a welcoming community, where pupils feel safe and valued. Leaders plan carefully for transition when pupils join the school, supporting them to develop an individualised timetable that reflects their interests and future aspirations suitably. As a result, pupils settle quickly when they join the school and attend regularly. This represents significant progress for nearly all pupils.

Leaders have a clear values-led vision for the school. They aim to provide a flexible curriculum offer and range of learning experiences to enable all pupils to succeed. This has been recently strengthened to include opportunities for gaining GCSE qualifications alongside accredited courses. However, the school's focus on the progressive development of skills is underdeveloped.

Staff collaborate positively to develop a secure understanding of pupils' emotional and social needs and build positive working relationships with them during their time at the school.

The school has a particular focus on careers education, ensuring that pupils are helped to identify their next steps when they leave school. This is strengthened through the use of accreditation and work experience placements. As a result, pupils develop their ambition and make positive transitions on to further education. This is a notable strength of the school.

Leaders collect a range of relevant information to evaluate the work of the school and drive improvements. The school has made positive progress in addressing the recommendations from the most recent monitoring visit. However, much work in this area is newly established and quality assurance processes do not consistently consider the impact of provision on learning.

The school has an appropriate focus on keeping pupils safe. Staff have a secure understanding of their role in this process. Leaders are developing a sound safeguarding culture.

The school benefits from the support and challenge of a wider organisation to support its work. For example, staff benefit from a range of meaningful professional learning opportunities, which focus on teaching, learning and leadership. However, organisational processes do not consistently consider the specific Welsh context of the school, and as a result, important information can be difficult to access or incorrect.

# Recommendations

- R1 Strengthen approaches to the planning and delivery of learning activities to improve the progressive development of pupils' skills across the curriculum**
- R2 Refine roles, responsibilities and systems across the wider organisation to support the smooth operational management of the school**
- R3 Refine quality assurance and improvement planning processes to embed and sustain improvements**

## Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2024. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

### **The quality of education provided by the school**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

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

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The suitability of proprietors and staff**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The provision of information**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

### **The manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

# What happens next

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.

## School context

Name of provider	Carla House School
Proprietor	Your Chapter
Local authority	Wrexham County Borough Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent
Residential provision?	Yes
Number of pupils on roll	4
Pupils of statutory school age	2
Start date of inspection	17/06/2024
Carla House School is an independent school in a rural setting near Wrexham. The school is owned by Your Chapter, a company providing education, care and therapy for pupils with social, emotional or behavioural needs. 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. Currently, there are four pupils on roll. The headteacher has been in post since October 2022. The work of the school is overseen by the education director.	

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