

David Lloyd-Thomas DCELLS Olga Tutton DCELLS Rosemary Lait HMI LA link inspector: Iolo Dafydd School Registry Clerk	School Number: 661/6022
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**NOTE OF VISIT: POST- INSPECTION MONITORING OF REGISTERED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

School	Aran Hall School Rhydymain Dolgellau Gwynedd LL40 2AR duncanpritchard@aranhall.com
Purpose of visit	Post inspection monitoring of compliance with the registration Standards
Date of visit	15 and 16 February 2011
HMI/AI	Claire Yardley HMI Pauline Preston AI
Principal	Duncan Pritchard
Proprietor	SENAD
Staff	5 teachers, 8 teaching assistants and 73 care staff.
Pupils	There are 14 male pupils on roll, each of whom has a statement of special educational needs (SEN). Pupils' special needs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• severe learning difficulties;</li> <li>• autistic spectrum disorders (ASD); and</li> <li>• challenging behaviours.</li> </ul> Two pupils attend on a termly basis and the other twelve have 52 week residential placements.
Provision	52 week residential

Fee per pupil (education element)	£65000 per annum
Fee per pupil (care element)	£156000 per annum
Placing/Funding authorities	Birmingham Bristol x 2 Carmarthenshire Conwy Denbighshire Leicestershire Lincolnshire Neath Port Talbot Norfolk Stoke on Trent Telford Warwickshire Wrexham
Last Section 163 inspection	March 2010
Last CSSIW visit	November 2010

## **Context**

Estyn carried out a full inspection of Aran Hall School in March 2010. The inspection found that the school complied with the following Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003:

Standard 1: the quality of education provided by the school;

Standard 2: the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;

Standard 4: the suitability of proprietors and staff;

Standard 6: the provision of information; or

Standard 7: the manner in which complaints are to be handled.

The school did not comply with:

Standard 3: the welfare, health and safety of pupils; and

Standard 5: the premises of and boarding accommodation.

Inspectors made this visit to review the school's progress in meeting the registration Standards.

## **Main findings**

- The school has made good progress in addressing registration issues for Standards 3 and 5.
- Senior managers have reviewed carefully and fully addressed matters of compliance and recommendations from the inspection report.
- The school now has a comprehensive sex education programme which includes specific work with individuals and groups who need particular support with keeping themselves and others safe.
- The school has appointed a speech and language therapist who works with learners and also supports the teaching staff. She visits the school for three hours each fortnight.
- Assessment, recording and reporting have improved. Managers undertake careful analysis of each learner's progress and the value that the school has added.

## **Compliance with the Standards for registration**

### **Does the school meet the Standards for registration?**

#### **Standard 3: The welfare, health and safety of learners**

In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school was recommended to:

- meet standard 3(2)b to prepare and implement written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are learners at the school in compliance with Welsh Office circular 52/95 'Protecting children from abuse: the role of the educational service' and the updated guidance of April 2008; and
- meet standard 3(5) to have a satisfactory level of fire safety, identified by its risk assessment under Part 11 Fire Precautions (workplace) regulations 1997, and by any report from the fire authority.

#### **Commentary:**

The school has revised its safeguarding policy to reflect the new requirements of the updated guidance. These requirements have been communicated with all staff. There are actions identified in the school's post inspection action plan to make sure that compliance is reviewed and evaluated.

The school has commissioned a review of the fire risk assessment and revised the risk assessment. This has been communicated to the staff team through health and safety meetings. There are actions identified in the school's post inspection action plan to make sure that compliance is reviewed and evaluated.

**On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not now meet the requirements for this Standard.**

### **Standard 5: Premises of and boarding accommodation**

In order to comply fully with the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, the school was recommended to:

- meet standard 5 (v) to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination (Wales) Regulations 2003.

#### **Commentary:**

The school has compiled a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) action plan documenting the school's plan and approach to ensuring access for all, including the:

- curriculum;
- physical environment; and
- communication of information.

The school now has a DDA action plan that forms part of the school development plan. It is reviewed regularly.

**On the basis of this visit, there is no evidence to indicate that the school does not now meet the requirements for this Standard.**

### **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 now 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.

### **The school's response to the recommendations of the inspection report**

- R1** The school now complies with the registration requirements.
- R2** Introduce a programme of sex education for all learners;
- R3** Provide targeted interventions to help the few learners who have yet to develop the skills and control to keep themselves and others safe, which they will need when they become independent.

### **Commentary**

The school has made very good progress with these two recommendations. It has introduced a comprehensive programme for addressing sexually harmful behaviour. Senior staff have attended valuable training sessions in order to inform the school approach to interventions. Staff have all been trained in the delivery of this new programme so that they take a consistent approach. All learners now receive sex and relationships education. The school makes very good use of the Family Planning Association's programme 'JIWSI' for vulnerable learners. The school employs a cognitive behaviour therapist. The programme includes anger management and training in self control. This work is underpinned by a well thought-out points system which rewards the very small steps that learners take in modifying their behaviour.

- R4** Give more able learners the opportunity to gain qualifications for their literacy and numeracy work.

### **Commentary**

The school has identified appropriate courses such as Entry Level Pathways and Essential Skills Wales. Teachers have received training to introduce accredited courses. The school's post-inspection action identifies strategies to make sure that newly accredited courses are reviewed and evaluated. Most more able pupils have already achieved entry level qualifications through attending college.

- R5** Improve attendance and punctuality

### **Commentary**

The school now collects data on attendance and punctuality across the school. This is carefully analysed so that senior managers can track trends and intervene where necessary. The school makes good use of its 'Achieve' programme to provide incentives for pupils to attend and arrive on time.

- R6** Make sure that staff and learners receive the support that they need following critical incidents.

### **Commentary**

Managers have reviewed and revised the system for documenting and dealing with critical incidents. Managers now regularly review the need for specific support so that they can pre-empt incidents wherever possible. Staff and learners now have clear procedures for debriefing following an incident.

**R7** Make sure that staff receive the training that they need to further improve the curriculum and meet all learners' needs

### **Commentary**

Appraisal now clearly identifies the training needs of the school and individual teachers. It uses the information well to plan a programme of continuing professional development.