



Estyn Summary

2018



“Ysgol Aberconwy’s inclusive, supportive and nurturing ethos has a significant beneficial impact on pupils’ wellbeing and personal development.”

During March 2018 we welcomed Estyn* inspectors to Ysgol Aberconwy, so they could meet with pupils, staff and parents, whilst also having the opportunity to see our lessons and extra-curricular activities.

Since I joined the school in 2014, we have introduced new processes and procedures to ensure as a school we support and develop our pupils to be the best they can be. I am pleased to say the report we have received positively highlights the changes we have introduced.

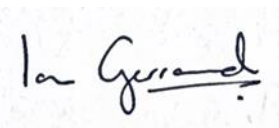
We are delighted the Estyn inspectors have recognised our hard work and dedication, noting that “Ysgol Aberconwy’s inclusive, supportive and nurturing ethos has a significant beneficial impact on pupils’ wellbeing and personal development.” We are extremely proud of our pupils who as always were described as “courteous and respectful towards their peers, staff and visitors. They behave well in lessons and around the school and have positive attitudes to learning.”

During the inspection, Estyn reviewed the school in five keys areas, which we have summarised within this document for you:

1. Standards
2. Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning
3. Teaching and Learning Experiences
4. Care, Support and Guidance
5. Leadership and Management

Moving forward as a school, we will continue working on the school’s development plan, which we will share with Estyn when they review the school’s progress. We will continue to improve and focus on the areas where we know extra development is required.

I would like to personally thank each pupil, parent and member of staff for all their hard work not only leading up to the inspection but also during it and after. Together we are working towards our mission to inspire, support and succeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ian Gerrard'.

Ian Gerrard
Headteacher

*Estyn is the office of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales.
The purpose of Estyn is to inspect quality and standards in education and training in Wales.

1. Standards

Estyn say:

- Pupils develop relevant subject specific skills and acquire a secure understanding of key principles and issues.
- Pupils express their ideas and opinions confidently both inside and out of the classroom with the majority contributing enthusiastically to class or group discussions.
- Performance of pupils eligible for free school meals over the last three years is generally above that of these pupils in similar schools.
- Pupils with additional learning needs progress in line with their personal targets.
- At the end of Year 11, most pupils remain in full time education, employment or training.
- The majority of pupils have entered GCSE in Welsh as a second language, with many achieving a C grade or better.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will continue to focus on consistent performance and results from all pupils across the school and we anticipate outstanding exam results at both GCSE and A level this year.



2. Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Estyn say:

- The school's inclusive and supportive ethos based on mutual respect is successful in promoting high levels of pupil wellbeing.
- Pupils feel safe in school and consider that the school deals well with any instances of bullying.
- Pupils are courteous and respectful towards their peers, staff and visitors.
- They behave well in lessons and around the school and have positive attitudes to learning.
- Many pupils benefit from their participation in the school's valuable programme of cultural and creative activities, including musical and drama productions.
- The School Council makes a positive contribution to school life.
- Most pupils develop well as ethical and informed citizens. They contribute successfully to raising substantial amounts of money for local and national charities. As a result, these pupils make a valuable contribution to the local wider community.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will continue working with pupils to ensure their wellbeing and attitudes remain positive.

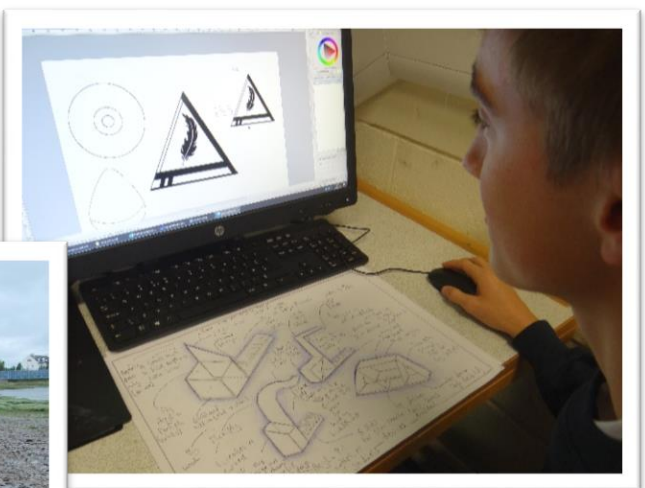


3. Teaching and learning experiences

Estyn say:

- Teachers have a strong subject knowledge and are effective language role models. Lessons are planned well, with clear learning objectives.
- The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that builds appropriately upon pupils' previous learning and meets the needs of nearly all pupils.
- At key stage 4 and in sixth form, the school offers a broad range of academic and vocational qualifications through successful partnerships with a neighbouring college and other sixth forms in the local authority. These arrangements help the school to address national and local priorities well and support pupils to develop important employability and life skills.
- There is a broad range of sporting, creative and cultural enrichment activities that support pupils' learning and contribute well to their personal development.
- The school has suitable arrangements that help pupils with weak literacy and numeracy skills to make secure progress in developing these skills.
- There is a well co-ordinated approach to developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of Welsh language and culture. The school provides valuable opportunities for Welsh speaking pupils to maintain and develop their language skills.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will focus on opportunities to extend, develop and challenge our pupils further within and outside the classroom. As a school, we are promoting the use of Office 365 and in particular, we are developing the pupil intranet, which will allow all pupils to access school resources outside of school hours, giving them independence in the digital world.



4. Care, support and guidance

Estyn say:

- The school promotes successfully an inclusive, supportive and nurturing community that has a significant beneficial impact on pupils' wellbeing and personal development. Recent changes to the school's pastoral arrangements are contributing effectively to promoting pupils' wellbeing.
- Heads of year and year mentors work closely with form tutors to provide beneficial pastoral and academic support for pupils.
- There are arrangements in place to monitor pupils' academic progress and wellbeing and to identify those pupils who need specific support. Staff provide a broad range of well-planned personalised support for those pupils with additional learning needs.
- The school keeps parents well informed regarding all aspects of their children's progress.
- The school provides worthwhile opportunities for pupils to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These include sporting and recreational activities, as well as musical and dramatic performances, that enrich pupils' experiences.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to voice their opinions is a strength of the school. Pupils play a valuable role in the life and work of the school. For example, the pupils' anti-bullying committee has worked well with the school to refine policies that have a positive impact on pupils' wellbeing.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will continue working with pupils to ensure they receive the care, support and guidance they require.



5. Leadership and Management



Estyn say:

- Leadership and management at all levels have brought about improvements in key areas of the school's work. The Headteacher provides clear, supportive and decisive leadership that is contributing well to improving key aspects of the school's work.
- The Headteacher and senior leadership team work well together and have promoted successfully a clear vision for the school based around the mission - 'inspire, support and succeed'.
- The school has an accurate and realistic awareness of its key strengths and areas for development.
- The school development plan includes relevant initiatives that address national priorities and those identified through self-evaluation activities.
- Support staff are used effectively in the classroom and in specialist areas.
- The school provides a pleasant and welcoming environment that is well maintained and supports pupils' wellbeing and learning well. Specialist areas, such as science laboratories and technology workshops, are well resourced.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, as a school we will focus on providing training opportunities to help and support staff's professional development. In particular, we will increase the support for staff to assist in their leadership development.

To view the full report please visit Estyn's website.

