



Estyn Summary

2025





“ Ysgol Aberconwy is a caring and inclusive community where pupils feel safe, valued and respected. ”

During October 2025 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.

Over recent years and since the pandemic in particular, 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 impact of 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 three keys areas, which we have summarised within this document for you:

1. Teaching and Learning
2. Well-being, Care, Support and Guidance
3. Leading and Improving

Moving forward as a school, we will continue working on our development plan, which we will share with Estyn as they identify special measures that they feel are necessary to support us in our development journey. We will, as always, continue to improve and focus on the areas where we know such 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.

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. Teaching and Learning

Estyn say:

- Many pupils behave well in lessons.
- Pupils in the sixth form enjoy being part of the school community and engage positively with their teachers and peers.
- Many teachers establish purposeful working relationships with pupils.
- In many lessons, pupils engage well and respond to staff expectations.
- A majority of pupils make suitable progress when teaching is effective.
- The majority of pupils make suitable progress with their digital skills.
- At Key Stage 4 and in the sixth form, the curriculum is broad and well-balanced.
- Pupils value the wide range of trips and visits, which contribute to their strong connection with, and respect for, their school.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will continue to focus on consistency of challenge, modelling and explanations; the precision and impact of feedback; pupils' reading accuracy, vocabulary and extended writing; and the pace of progress in some lessons.



2. Well-being, Care, Support & Guidance

Estyn say:

- Ysgol Aberconwy is a caring and inclusive community where pupils feel safe, valued and respected.
- There is a positive safeguarding culture where most pupils feel safe when at school.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are supportive.
- Many pupils behave well around the school.
- Pupils benefit from meaningful opportunities to develop their awareness of diversity.
- Diversity is celebrated throughout the school.
- Pupils are proud to be part of their school community.
- The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, which are well attended.
- The school provides a range of supportive environments where pupils feel nurtured.
- The learning resource bases provide calm, supportive environments that promote security and emotional regulation.
- Strong relationships between staff and pupils characterise the learning environments in these bases.
- The ABCD base provides helpful targeted support for pupils to improve their literacy skills.
- The majority of pupils in social and emotional interventions improve regulation and engagement well.
- Arrangements for personal and social education support pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.
- Pastoral staff respond appropriately to concerns, including incidents of bullying.
- The options and transition process is well organised.
- Pupils receive impartial advice that helps them make informed decisions.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, we will continue working to improve attendance; supporting a minority of pupils to maintain concentration in a small number of lessons and supporting those with weaker literacy and numeracy skills to develop their confidence.



3. Leading & Improving

Estyn say:

- The headteacher provides thoughtful leadership with inclusion and well-being at the heart of his vision.
- The school's mission and values are well understood and embraced by pupils, staff and governors.
- Leaders have strengthened the senior leadership team to increase capacity.
- Governors provide high levels of support and appropriate challenge.
- The headteacher, business manager and governors manage the budget effectively.
- Leaders are creative in terms of solutions to staffing challenges.
- The school places a strong emphasis on local identity ('Cynefin').
- Leaders promote the advantages of learning the Welsh language well.
- Links with the Urdd enhance pupils' experiences.
- Many pupils have positive attitudes towards learning Welsh.
- Leaders have a clear vision for developing pupil leadership.
- There are meaningful opportunities for pupils to take responsibility.
- Leaders and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding.

In response to Estyn's recommendations, as a school we will focus on strengthening the whole-school evaluation and improvement cycle; ensuring middle leaders have the systems and support they need to lead improvement effectively; aligning professional learning with teaching and learning priorities

To view the full report please visit [Estyn's website](#).

