

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 09 December 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Ysgol Pen y Garth: Update on School in Statutory Follow-up
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the progress of Ysgol Pen y Garth and their removal from the list of schools requiring special measures
Report Owner:	Elizabeth Jones, Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	Carys Pritchard, Principal Improvement Partner, Central South Consortium
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Councillor Rhiannon Birch, Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language Morwen Hudson, Head of Standards and Provision
Policy Framework:	The recommendations of this report are within existing policy framework and budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>Estyn inspects quality and standards in education across Wales. During the autumn term 2022, Ysgol Pen y Garth was placed in special measures following their inspection. Ysgol Pen y Garth's progress has been monitored by Estyn on three occasions following the core inspection. Following their recent monitoring in October 2024, Estyn judged the school to have made sufficient progress in relation to their recommendations. As a result, His Majesty's Chief Inspection of Education and Training in Wales has removed Ysgol Pen y Garth from the list of schools requiring special measures. A copy of the monitoring report can be found here: Estyn monitoring report Ysgol Pen y Garth October 2024</p>	

Recommendation

1. That Members consider the Estyn monitoring outcomes for Ysgol Pen y Garth, acknowledge the progress made against the recommendations from their core inspection in November 2022, and congratulate the school on their removal of the school from the list of schools requiring special measures.

Reason for Recommendation

1. In order that Members are aware of the progress made by Ysgol Pen y Garth in relation to the recommendations following their core inspection in November 2022, resulting in removing the school from the list of schools requiring special measures.

1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2022, Ysgol Pen y Garth were inspected by Estyn.
- 1.2 Five recommendations were identified by Estyn:
 - R1: Strengthen leadership to operate more strategically
 - R2: Ensure that self-evaluation and planning for improvement procedures are rigorous enough to address the areas for improvement
 - R3: Provide activities that set an appropriate level of challenge so that all pupils can achieve to the best of their ability consistently
 - R4 Provide stimulating learning activities that support older pupils to develop and apply their skills purposefully over time
 - R5 Ensure that teachers' feedback on pupils' work is purposeful and provides regular opportunities for pupils to improve their work
- 1.3 There are three types of follow-up category:
 - Estyn review
 - significant improvement
 - special measures
- 1.4 All follow-up work involves activity by Estyn inspectors. The activity involves increasing levels of intervention in proportion to need.
- 1.5 Estyn were of the opinion that special measures were required in relation to Ysgol Pen y Garth.
- 1.6 The school were required to draw up an action plan outlining how it was going to address the five Estyn recommendations.
- 1.7 Estyn monitored the school's progress against the recommendations from the core inspection. Estyn visited the school on three occasions to monitor progress.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** During the autumn term 2022, Ysgol Pen y Garth was placed in special measures.
- 2.2** Ysgol Pen y Garth drafted their Post-Inspection Action Plan to address their Estyn recommendations and the plan was approved by Estyn.
- 2.3** The local authority prepared a written statement of action in relation to Ysgol Pen y Garth. The statement of action proposed the action the local authority would take in light of the Pen y Garth inspection report.
- 2.4** Progress in relation to the action plan and statement of action were monitored on a half-termly basis involving representatives from the school, local authority and Central South Consortium.
- 2.5** Estyn visited the school on three occasions to monitor the progress of the school: October 2023, March 2024 and October 2024.
- 2.6** Following the monitoring visit in October 2024, Estyn judged the school to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations from the core inspection in November 2022. As a result, Ysgol Pen y Garth was removed from the list of schools requiring special measures.
- 2.7** A report outlining the progress that Ysgol Pen y Garth has made in addressing the recommendations from their core inspection can be found here: [Estyn monitoring report Ysgol Pen y Garth October 2024](#)

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** Support for learners contributes to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives drawn from the Corporate Plan 2020-25. There is specific alignment with our wellbeing objectives to work with and for our communities and to support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.
- 3.3** This report recognises the importance of identifying best practice in learning, provision and leadership in non-maintained settings and schools which will meet the needs of young people over the long term.
- 3.4** The report recognises the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the outcome and those people reflect the diversity of the area which the report addresses. All relevant stakeholders have been involved in the consultation process through this report.
- 3.5** This report supports the objectives listed in the Service Plan for Standards and Provision 2024-25.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

4.1 There are no climate change and nature implications resulting from this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Employment

5.2 There are no employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 None