



Annual monitoring inspection report on

Priory College South Wales

Date of inspection: April 2015

by

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education
and Training in Wales**

Every possible care has been taken to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of going to press. Any enquiries or comments regarding this document/publication should be addressed to:

Publication Section

Estyn

Anchor Court

Keen Road

Cardiff

CF24 5JW or by email to publications@estyn.gov.uk

This and other Estyn publications are available on our website: www.estyn.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright 2015: This report may be re-used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re-used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the report specified.

Publication date: 25/06/2015

Context

Priory College South Wales provides post-school education for around 40 learners, aged 16 to 25 years, with autistic spectrum and associated conditions.

The Priory College South Wales learning centre is set within the grounds of Coleg Gwent's Pontypool campus. Priory College South Wales learners access a broad range of facilities. These include such specialist vocational training areas as construction and professional hair and beauty salons, which are open to the public. Many learners attend classes provided by Coleg Gwent in the main campus buildings and receive extra support as needed from the specialist Priory College South Wales learning centre.

In addition, Priory College South Wales offers a small number of specific courses for employability, social use of language, art therapy and independent living skills.

Learners are supported by an extensive team of support workers. A new vice principal was appointed recently to manage this college.

Main findings

Strengths

The school's strengths are that:

- The college deploys staff well and appropriately to support learners across their courses and in all areas of their learning
- Learners have frequent access to professional speech and language therapy, which meets their individual needs well
- With a clear vision to becoming a leading centre for autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) provision and support, the college has appointed a trained ASD specialist and offers access to a wide range of resources on site
- Learner attendance at the college is high
- The college has a clear focus on developing learners' confidence in their ability to learn and develop study skills

Areas for development

The school's areas for development are that:

- The complaints procedure and policy are not clear enough to be understood easily by learners, parents and carers
- The college's policy on sanctions and rewards is not clear, as documents such as the behaviour policy and the student handbook contradict each other
- Without clear links between Priory College South Wales policy and the policies of other educational providers accessed by the learners, learners are not aware of the consequences of inappropriate actions in all learning venues
- The college does not use data effectively enough to track learner progress and inform planning
- Links between the self-assessment report and quality improvement plan remain underdeveloped
- The college has made slow progress in addressing the recommendations from the last Estyn monitoring visit

Recommendations

The school should:

- R1 Ensure that all policies are clear and consistent
- R2 Use a comprehensive range of data effectively to track learner progress and inform planning
- R3 Make sure that there is a clear link between the self-assessment report and the quality improvement plan

Progress in addressing recommendations from previous note of visit or inspection report

Recommendation 1: Amend the safeguarding policy to make procedures clear and easy to follow

This recommendation has been partly addressed.

The college has produced a very useful procedure sheet with simple and clear instructions for staff to follow in the event of a disclosure. These are displayed prominently in all rooms. However, the safeguarding policy is too general and the guidance given is not always clear or specific enough.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that all policies are specific to the college

This recommendation has been fully addressed.

The college has revised all policies to make sure that they are specific to either Priory College as a whole or to individual sites as appropriate. However, a few policies such as the complaints policy do not have a clear format that can be easily understood by learners or parents and carers.

Recommendation 3: Make sure the self-assessment report is evaluative and clearly identifies strengths and areas for development

This recommendation has not been addressed.

The self-assessment report is too descriptive and is not sufficiently evaluative to enable the college to identify easily the strengths and areas for improvement.

Recommendation 4: Develop a robust quality cycle where self-assessment fully informs the quality development plan

This recommendation has not been addressed.

The quality development plan does not show an appropriate link with the selfassessment report. It contains generalised statements and does not identify the basis on which these conclusions were reached. The quality cycle is underdeveloped and does not inform future planning well enough.

Recommendation 5: Establish a formal system to track and evaluate learner progress on vocational and academic courses

This recommendation has not been addressed.

The college has held several meetings with Coleg Gwent. Links with the college are very secure and most learning support workers have a good professional relationship with Coleg Gwent teachers. However, formal systems to track and evaluate learner progress on vocational and academic courses have not yet developed.

Inspectors' judgements on this annual monitoring inspection should not prejudice the findings of a future full inspection.

College information

College	Priory College South Wales
College number	F0006005
Purpose of visit	Annual monitoring inspection
Date of visit	20/04/2015
Proprietor	Priory Education Services
Staff	Insert text
Number of learners	40
Provision	Day
Type of special educational need (SEN) catered for by the college	Autistic spectrum and associated conditions
Last full inspection	N/A
Last annual monitoring inspection	26/03/2014
Last CSSIW inspection	N/A

Team information

Mrs Elizabeth Ann Dackevych	Reporting Inspector
Mrs Gill Sims	Team Inspector