Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Cwmdar

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar, Laburnum Drive, Aberdare, CF44 8RT

01685652509

Date(s) of inspection visit(s):

11/06/2025

Service Information:

Operated by:	Cylch Meithrin Seren Fach
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	29
Main language(s):	Welsh
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	Yes
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The service provider is not meeting the Welsh language and culture needs of people and this requires improvement.

Ratings:

Well-being	Good
Care & Development	Good
Environment	Good
Leadership & Management	Good

Summary:

Children are happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe and secure in the care of staff. Children have good opportunities for play and learning and develop their independence through a range of quality experiences and play.

Staff are professional, well qualified and enjoy their work. They are kind, caring and interact well with children. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They are attentive to the needs of the children and respect the children in their care. They keep good records of children's progress.

The environment is secure, clean, welcoming, and well maintained. High quality furniture, toys and resources both indoors and outdoors promote children's play and development. People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe and secure and that it promotes the health and well-being of children.

Leadership and management of the service is good. There is a clear vision for the service and the management team support staff to carry out their jobs well. Parents speak highly of the care provided by staff at the setting.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children make choices and decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They freely choose from a wide range of activities. For example, we saw children choosing to participate in outdoor play activities as well as enjoying free play indoors with resources of their choice. Children are confident to approach staff and communicate their thoughts and ideas, as they know they are listened to and all their attempts at communication are valued.

Children are happy, settled and cope well with separation from their parents. They have good bonds of affection with staff who are kind, gentle and warm. Children are familiar with the routines which they enjoy and adds to their sense of safety and belonging. For example, we saw children wash their hands in preparation for snack time.

Children are beginning to form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They play calmly alongside each other and together. For example, we saw a child call another over to the home play corner to watch them play the guitar and sing a song. Children are learning to respect each other and the resources of the setting, learning to share and use equipment appropriately.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They benefit from a good range of age-appropriate, high-quality play and learning resources both inside and out. They choose from a variety of exciting and enjoyable activities. We saw children delight in their play. For example, children smiling and laughing while going down the slide outside while others thoroughly enjoyed a sticking and gluing activity. Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable to their age and stage of development. Photographs of the children and their families are displayed within the setting. Children take turns weekly to have the ‘home to setting’ mascot, Doti the dog. They bring in pictures of the time spent together, and we saw a child telling their friends about what they did during their weekend together. These opportunities give children a sense of pride and belonging.

Children develop a good range of skills as they play. They have many opportunities to become independent. Children who can, use the toilet independently and they wash their own hands when they have taken part in a messy play activity.

Care & Development — Good

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. They are competent in keeping children safe, secure and healthy. There are procedures in place to promote the welfare of children, including a thorough safeguarding policy. Staff we spoke to were confident regarding their role in protecting children. Staff have a good understanding of children's health needs including allergies, dietary requirements and medical needs. Staff record accidents, incidents and pre-existing injuries accurately and consistently, which are signed and dated by parents, along with the administration of prescribed medication. Nappy changing is carried out in a respectful and calming manner. We saw staff talking calmly to children while changing their nappies, this helped the children feel relaxed and comfortable during this time. There are in-depth, comprehensive policies in place, which are regularly reviewed. All staff read the policies and adhere to them day to day. Staff practise regular fire drills with children so that they know what to do in an emergency.

Staff ensure children have access to daily physical play experiences, offering them the benefits of physical exercise. Staff work well together to support and promote children's social behaviour, taking into consideration their age and stage of development. They are positive role models to the children in their care, treating them and each other with care, respect and kindness. They have a good understanding of children's needs. Staff treat children kindly, calmly and practise appropriate behaviour management strategies. They chat naturally with children about topics that interest them which supports their play and learning.

Staff are supportive, nurturing and engage positively with children to support their play and development. There is a good system in place for recording and identifying children's progress and next steps. Staff gain support from the local authority when working with children with additional learning needs. Targets set are worked on by staff and all relevant developmental plans are updated regularly. Staff use an in the moment planning method to plan a good variety of activities, which follows the children's input and interests. The use of Welsh is good throughout the setting.

Environment — Good

The premises are warm, safe and well maintained. The entrance is secure, and a locked gate ensures only authorised access is granted by staff. In-depth, comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the premises and activities carried out. Staff keep children safe by completing daily safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible eliminate risks to children's safety. Routine safety checks and certificates for the building and appliances are in place. The setting is registered with the food safety department at the local authority. Records show that fire drills are carried out regularly and insurance certificates are up to date.

The environment is welcoming and very child friendly. It is well decorated with calming, neutral colours, giving a relaxed and homely feel to the setting. The main playroom is spacious and light allowing children large spaces and freedom to move around as they play. The room is well organised and laid out in an interesting manner to stimulate children's curiosity, exploration and development. There is a good range of purposeful resources and books which are easily accessible to children encouraging their independence. Equipment indoors promotes children creativity, imagination and curiosity. There are a variety of books, dressing up outfits and play figures celebrating multi-culturalism. Children also celebrate a variety of world-wide celebrations including Diwali, Chinese New Year and St. David's Day. This gives children knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Leaders would benefit from increasing their awareness and understanding of the Diversity Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL) and implementing throughout the setting. The outdoor area has a good range of equipment suitable for the ages of the children. Resources available to children outdoors encourage development of their gross motor skills such as stepping stones, jumping activities, a slide and space to ride bikes and trikes or run around.

Toys, resources, furniture and equipment at the setting are in a good condition, well maintained and of very good quality. The setting has suitable furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs and low-level toy storage, suitable for the ages of children who attend. There are a suitable number of children's toilets and nappy changing facilities available, which are clean and fresh. Liquid soap and hand drying facilities are easily accessible to support children's independence when addressing their personal care.

Leadership & Management — Good

Leadership and management of the service is good. There is a clear vision for the future of the setting and managers are always looking for ways to improve on already good practice. The people running the setting maintain and share an up to date and comprehensive statement of purpose that accurately reflects the service provided. Policies and procedures are comprehensive and detailed, which aids in the smooth running of the setting. Leaders engage well with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), notifying us of all notifiable events.

Staff files are thorough and all relevant safety checks are completed to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Regular meaningful supervision and appraisals are viewed as integral to their practice and drive improvement. The people running the setting set high expectations. They promote current best practice relevant to the children in their care. The people running the service ensure staff access training relevant to their practice. This ensures staff are kept up to date with changes and new themes and trends within childcare. The people running the setting implement continuous and meaningful self-evaluation effectively. They regularly seek and act upon feedback from children, their parents/carers and staff.

There is a clear system in place to easily identify that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff have up to date mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. People who run the setting consistently deploy staff effectively to maintain staffing ratios and ensure children's needs are fully met. Staff we spoke to during the inspection told us they feel valued in their roles and that the management team are approachable and supportive.

Strong links have been developed between the setting and parents. Parents we spoke to told us that they were happy with the service the setting provides. Parents also told us that they feel their children have developed in confidence since attending the setting. They keep parents well informed through daily verbal feedback and termly development meetings. The people who run the setting have developed good links with staff from the local authority who support the setting. They have also developed good transition links with the Welsh primary school, in which they are based. Children are invited to join the nursery class for concerts. They also benefit from having visits to the nursery class in preparation for their transition to school the following term.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

National Minimum Standards

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Best Practice

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Recommendation(s)
Embed Diversity and Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL) throughout the setting.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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