

'We cannot ignore most vulnerable'

[Feb 15 2010](#) by [Alex Hickey](#), Daily Post

IESTYN GARLICK is best known as a TV presenter and actor, but to the staff at Ysgol Pendalar he is a tireless fundraiser and most importantly the father of a pupil.

Iestyn's son Steffan, 18, attended the Caernarfon-based special school and he's angry its pupils are funded more than £1,000 less than national average.

Iestyn said: "Ysgol Pendalar has had a huge impact on my son's progress over the last 15 years. He has been taught to communicate. He has been able to learn to interact at his level, he's able (now) to use a wheelchair, and has been given a degree of independence.

"Underfunding, by its very definition, suggests that there are not enough funds to do the job.

"That in itself is not acceptable, but when put in conjunction with not having the funds to educate, support and nurture the most vulnerable in society, then it's totally unacceptable. To underfund a school that need specialist equipment, as part of its curriculum, is just not fair.

"Pendalar is lucky to have huge parental and community support. But this money should be used for those 'little extras', not for what should be supplied by right.

"When the funding is less than satisfactory for those who can't help themselves, that is indeed a sad reflection of the society that we live in.

"No school should need to go 'cap in hand' at the end of every term to ensure that the proper staff needs will be in place the following term. It creates uncertainty and a lack of continuity," Iestyn added.