

Dauntsey's School

Inspection report for boarding school

Unique reference number	SC036461
Inspection date	11 March 2008
Inspector	Wendy Anderson
Type of Inspection	Random

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Head of care	Stewart Roberts
Head / Principal	Stewart Roberts
Date of last inspection	7 February 2006

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

Dauntsey's School is situated on the A360 five miles south of Devizes and within easy travelling distance of Bath, Salisbury, Swindon and the M4 and M3 motorways. Set in the Vale of Pewsey, Dauntsey's School was founded in West Lavington in 1542 under the will of Alderman William Dauntsey, Master of the Worshipful Company of Mercers. The school still continues to be generously supported by the Mercers' Company. The school's prospectus states that the school encourages all pupils 'to make the most of his or her talents and interests in a lively and caring environment and release their full potential morally, spiritually, culturally and academically.' Dauntsey's is a co-educational school offering boarding provisions in five houses. The Manor House is situated off the main school campus and is for younger boarders of either sex, aged 11 to 14. The remaining boarding houses are for older pupils aged 14 to 18 and are separated by gender. Mercers and Fitzmaurice are for older boys, Jeanne and Evans for the older girls.

Summary

This inspection was an interim visit to Dauntsey's School to follow up on the recommendation made at the last inspection. The school has actioned all of the recommendations that were made in the 2006 report. This includes improving the bathing and toilet facilities in the Manor. The school has developed the training and information they provide for the prefects to cover child protection. The recruitment process of the schools has been developed to meet the required standards. The privacy of the pay phone in Evans has been improved and all houses now record the temperatures of the house fridges. Fire doors at the school are no longer propped open and a designated record of controlled drugs is now kept. As this visit was only to follow up on the recommendation from the previous report the quality rating is based on this information and the information from the previous report.

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

See summary and the body of the report.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The school Sanatorium has a controlled drugs book. The school has provided boarders with washing machines in Mercer and Fitzmaurice for boarders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The selection process for new prefects begins March so they are well prepared for their roles which they take up in September. Members of the lower sixth are given the chance to shadow the upper sixth in their prefect duties. Both staff and pupils are involved in this selection process. All those pupils who are nominated for prefects are provided with feedback on why or why they have not been short listed. The prefect group consists of twelve pupils and this group has a designated staff mentor. As part of the prefect's induction they return to school a day early to receive induction and training for their role as prefect. This includes a session

on child protection. All prefects are also now provided with the same laminated card, credit card size, as all staff on child protection. This card provides what action should be taken if a disclosure is made to them or they see any inappropriate behaviour. The school is in the process of investigating door guards which will enable them to have fire doors 'propped' open but the door guard will close these fire doors if the alarm sounds. The Head of Boarding said that they had reiterated with all staff that fire doors must not be propped open. This card along with a similar one on sanction, the prefects carry with them at all times. The door guards have already been installed in the school Sanatorium. All ancillary staff at the school are CRB cleared. If ancillary staff start before their CRB application has been received by the school the member of staff will always be supervised by a member of staff who is CRB cleared. The school does make verbal contact with all referees; they have also implemented a standard letter that accompanies the request for references which states that the school will be making verbal contact with referee to verify all references. There is also now a standard application form. All senior managers at the school have undergone refresher training on recruitment to ensure a fair selection process. Note of staff interviews are now kept on staff's personnel files. These files have now been centralised in the school's Human Resources Department. The school involve the pupils in the selection process of new staff. This includes giving perspective staff a tour of the school site and providing feedback on how they found the candidate. All boarding houses keep a record of the temperatures of their fridges.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The pay phone in Evans has now a booth around it so that there is more privacy for boarders when making phone calls.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

The school has refurbished and increased the number of the bathrooms and toilet facilities at the Manor. This refurbishment is of a high standard. All bathrooms and toilets have the appropriate locks.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

Annex

Annex A

National Minimum Standards for boarding school

Being healthy

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders' health is promoted (NMS 6)
- safeguarding and promoting boarders' health and welfare are supported by appropriate records (NMS 7)
- boarders' receive first aid and health care as necessary (NMS 15)
- boarders are adequately supervised and looked after when ill (NMS 16)
- boarders are supported in relation to any health or personal problems (NMS 17)
- boarders receive good quality catering provision (NMS 24)
- boarders have access to food and drinking water in addition to main meals (NMS 25)
- boarders are suitably accommodated when ill (NMS 48)
- boarders' clothing and bedding are adequately laundered (NMS 49).

Ofsted considers 6 and 15 the key standards to be inspected.

Staying safe

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders are protected from bullying (NMS 2)
- boarders are protected from abuse (NMS 3)
- use of discipline with boarders is fair and appropriate (NMS 4)
- boarders' complaints are responded to appropriately (NMS 5)
- the operation of any prefect system safeguards and promotes boarders' welfare (NMS 13)
- boarders' welfare is protected in any appointment of educational guardians by the school (NMS 22)
- boarders are protected from the risk of fire (NMS 26)
- the welfare of any children other than the school's pupils is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated by the school (NMS 28)
- boarders' safety and welfare are protected during high risk activities (NMS 29)
- boarders' personal privacy is respected (NMS 37)
- there is vigorous selection and vetting of all staff and volunteers working with boarders (NMS 38)
- boarders are protected from unsupervised contact at school with adults who have not been subject to the school's complete recruitment checking procedures; all unchecked visitors to the boarding premises are supervised (NMS 39)
- boarders have their own accommodation, which is secure from public intrusion (NMS 41)
- boarders are protected from safety hazards (NMS 47)

Ofsted considers 2, 3, 4, 5, 26, 37, 38, 39, 41 and 47 the key standards to be inspected.

Enjoying and achieving

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders have access to a range and choice of activities (NMS 11)
- boarders do not experience inappropriate discrimination (NMS 18)
- boarders' welfare is not compromised by unusual or onerous demands (NMS 27)
- boarders have satisfactory provision to study (NMS 43)
- boarders have access to a range of safe recreational areas (NMS 46)

Ofsted considers 14 and 18 the key standards to be inspected.

Annex A

Making a positive contribution

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders are enabled to contribute to the operation of boarding in the school (NMS 12)
- boarders receive personal support from staff (NMS 14)
- boarders can maintain private contact with their parents and families (NMS 19)
- new boarders are introduced to the school's procedures and operation, and are enabled to settle in (NMS 21)
- boarders have appropriate access to information and facilities outside the school (NMS 30)
- there are sound relationships between staff and boarders (NMS 36)

Ofsted considers 12 and 19 the key standards to be inspected.

Achieving economic well-being

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders' possessions and money are protected (NMS 20)
- boarders are provided with satisfactory accommodation (NMS 40)
- boarders have satisfactory sleeping accommodation (NMS 42)
- boarders have adequate private toilet and washing facilities (NMS 44)
- boarders have satisfactory provision for changing by day (NMS 45)
- boarders can obtain personal requisites while accommodated at school (NMS 50)

Ofsted considers 51 the key standard to be inspected.

Organisation

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- a suitable statement of the school's principles and practice should be available to parents, boarders and staff (NMS 1)
- there is clear leadership of boarding in the school (NMS 8)
- crises affecting boarders' welfare are managed effectively (NMS 9)
- the school's organisation of boarding contributes to boarders' welfare (NMS 10)
- risk assessment and school record-keeping contribute to boarders' welfare (NMS 23)
- boarders are supervised adequately by staff (NMS 31)
- staff exercise appropriate supervision of boarders leaving the school site (NMS 32)
- boarders are adequately supervised at night (NMS 33)
- boarders are looked after by staff which have specific boarding duties, and have received adequate induction and continued training (NMS 34)
- boarders are looked after by staff which follow clear boarding policies and practice (NMS 35)
- the welfare of boarders placed in lodgings is safeguarded and promoted (NMS 51)
- the welfare of boarders is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated away from the school site on short-term visits (NMS 52)

Ofsted considers 1, 23, 31 and 34 the key standards to be inspected.