

# Kingston Maurward College

Inspection report for further education college

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<b>Inspector</b>	Roy Bega
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<b>Date of last inspection</b>	4 October 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**

Kingston Maurward College is set in a 300 hectare (750 acre) estate two miles from the county town of Dorchester.

The college offers a vast range of full and part time work based and further education courses. As an associate college of Bournemouth University it is also able to provide higher education courses including foundation degrees. A range of study options is also available to school pupils between 14 - 16 years.

The college provides a limited range of residential accommodation on site which consists predominantly of single study bedrooms in groups of eight to ten students to a house.

A minority of students living in college accommodation are aged under 18 years. In addition a small variable number of under 18 year olds may live in college accommodation when they are required to be on early morning and evening agricultural and equine duties.

### **Summary**

This is the college's announced three yearly social care inspection. It took place over a period of two days and all key standards are assessed.

Recommendations from the previous inspection of 22 September 2005 are assessed as being met.

There are three recommendations resulting from this inspection.

Students benefit from excellent communication systems across the college in relation to meeting health care needs. There are excellent levels of guidance and information provided by the Residential Wardens, Student Services, and Learning Support.

There are excellent arrangements in place at the college to ensure students are safeguarded from harm. Management acknowledge the newly appointed deputy warden will benefit by attending a full safeguarding training course.

Students benefit from excellent levels of individual support being available to them. The college has a strong commitment in the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion.

New students and parents are provided with suitable information and guidelines in respect of residential arrangements, routines and rules. Students benefit from having varied opportunities to express their views and influence how the college operates.

Under 18 year old students' welfare is safeguarded by being accommodated in two dedicated hostels, one male and one female with single bedrooms. Management acknowledge students would benefit from an increase of indoor communal space, more appropriate furnishings and additional computer facilities.

The senior warden is enthusiastic and totally committed to providing good pastoral care for residential students and fully involving them in the development of the hostel provision. Whilst being clear about their responsibilities and lines of accountability the supervision of residential

students falls under the responsibility of one full time senior warden and one part time warden. Management acknowledge there are insufficient dedicated appropriately trained staff to maintain adequate supervision for the under 18 year old residential students outside teaching time. They agree to ensure this is rectified.

The overall quality rating is good.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The college has improved in the following areas since the previous key inspection which was carried out during September 2005 and follow up random inspection during October 2006.

Standard 6. The college have written a statement regarding the possession of obscene material on campus. This clearly states that the college is committed to the prevention of publication of any material which it considers to be pornographic, excessively violent or against the law.

Standard 18. Information is provided for parents regarding arrangements for health care at the college.

Standard 3. The college policy on 'Consensual Relationships between staff and students' has been amended to explicitly forbid sexual relationships between staff and students under 18 and who are resident on the campus.

Standard 34. Correct recruitment procedures are followed for the appointment of staff.

Standard 10. The college have produced when applicable written risk assessments in relation to situations where residents under 18 years of age occupy rooms in hostels with over 18 year old residents.

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Students benefit from excellent communication systems across the college in relation to meeting health care needs. Students have access to appropriately first aid trained staff 24 hours a day.

Students are generally resident on a weekly basis therefore remain registered with their own health practitioners. The college however, has an extremely good working relationship with the local health centre. Students benefit from having good access to either a male or female General Practitioner. They are enabled to arrange appointments independently or through college staff.

Records of illnesses, accidents, and injuries are appropriately and effectively monitored.

An excellent policy and procedure is in place regarding the safekeeping and handling of medication. At the time of this visit however, none of the students were in receipt of any medication.

The college has effective systems in place for identifying and supporting students who have additional support needs. Welfare plans for individual students are drawn up when necessary and communicated to staff on a 'need to know' basis only.

Students benefit from excellent levels of guidance and information from the Residential Wardens, Student Services, and Learning Support. A wide range of health related information is readily available and also displayed throughout the college.

Excellent health awareness campaigns are held regularly across the college which are enhanced by discussions during tutorial sessions. Speakers from external specialist agencies provide professional expertise in supporting the programme.

The college has an excellent commitment in working with external counselling and advisory services to whom students are able to self refer or are supported to make a referral.

Healthy eating is integral to the college's health promotion programme. Excellent links between senior management care wardens and catering manager ensures a varied healthy nutritious and balanced diet is provided. Dietary needs are catered for to meet health and cultural requirements. Students are empowered to comment on or suggest preferences either directly to the catering manager or by using a prominently positioned suggestion box.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Management and staff create an atmosphere where bullying is known to be unacceptable. Students are safeguarded by the college's effective countering bullying policy and procedures. The college has a student 'Ambassador scheme' (comprising of students) whose part of their role is providing advocacy for anti bullying. Residential students get on exceptionally well with one another and do not consider bullying to be a problem at the college.

There are excellent arrangements in place at the college to ensure students are safeguarded from harm. There is a nominated 'Safeguarding Officer' who has two deputies, all of whom are senior members of staff and have undertaken training specific to the role. Staff receive training on safeguarding children and young people and have suitable access to appropriate supporting policy and procedures documents. Management acknowledge the newly appointed deputy warden will benefit by attending a full safeguarding training course.

An informative leaflet on safeguarding children and young people is given to all staff and contains details for dealing with a disclosure. Staff are suitably aware of the college's designated safeguarding officer and the relevant reporting procedures. Students are provided with an informative leaflet which covers safeguarding and personal safety. They are also given practical guidelines should they be concerned for any reason about a fellow student.

Students at the college feel well treated by staff and benefit from a clearly defined disciplinary policy that is fairly applied. A comprehensive and clearly written 'College Charter' forms part of the information given to all students and contains the college's expectations of students and their behaviour. Records of significant sanctions are maintained appropriately and no unduly excessive sanctions are applied. The general standard of student behaviour at the college is extremely good.

Students at the college are freely able to approach a number of people with any concerns they may have. They are also aware of how to make a formal complaint about aspects affecting their welfare. The college deals rigorously and effectively with any complaints received and maintains appropriate records.

Students are extremely well protected from the risk of fire. The fire safety arrangements at the college are deemed to be satisfactory by the fire authority. Fire drills are carried out regularly. Checks and tests of fire safety equipment are carried out as required. Fire risk assessments are up to date for both boarding houses, and records in relation to fire safety matters are well maintained. Students receive a fire safety induction conducted by the fire authority. They are well aware of the emergency evacuation procedures, and there are clear procedures for them to sign in and out.

Students' privacy is suitably respected while having due regard for their welfare. All students have rooms which they are able to lock internally. All rooms contain a lockable space. There are clear guidelines for both entering, and for having to search a student's room. The college site is monitored by close circuit television (CCTV) but this does not intrude in any way upon student privacy.

There is an effective recruitment process which is followed in respect of all staff. Files seen and discussions show that before being offered a position an application form is completed, a minimum of two references obtained, a full interview conducted and an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check completed.

Students' residential accommodation at the college is for their dedicated use and suitably secure from public intrusion. Access to the accommodation can only be gained by the use of a swipe card. These are provided only to students and essential staff. There is no routine access to, or use of residential accommodation by anyone other than students and staff during term time. There are clear guidelines for the appropriate supervision of the school's maintenance team and external contractors when accessing the boarding houses.

Students benefit from excellent provision for the management of risk across the campus. There is a culture within the college whereby safety is maintained as a high priority. Comprehensive policies and procedures underpin and promote good practice in relation to safety. There are established systems for ensuring a safe environment is provided for students.

A health and safety committee meets once a term. Risk assessments are reviewed and revised as necessary and records of accidents are analysed by the health and safety committee. All staff cover health and safety as part of their induction to the college.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is outstanding.

Students benefit from excellent levels of individual support being available to them. Students confirm hostel wardens have a major role in their residential life. They are very approachable, knowledgeable and provide good pastoral care. All students also have allocated personal tutors with whom they meet regularly and who are easily accessible.

Student services provide a wide range of support for individuals including signposting to external specialist agencies when necessary. An independent counselling service is available and students are provided with the contact details of independent help lines. The ability to provide support for individual students is considerably enhanced by the excellent systems of communication that operate across the college.

'Student ambassadors' selected through the process of application and interview provide an alternative line of support to fellow students in respect of anti bullying, complaints and concerns.

Students benefit from the college's strong commitment in the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion. They describe being fairly treated and not being discriminated against in any way.

An open working partnership is forged with an external organisation to provide 'council and advice' for students who have a disability. Equally, a positive partnership with the county's 'Equality and diversity' department is enabling the college to work effectively with the gypsy and travelling community.

There are effective systems for identifying those students with additional support needs prior to arrival. An excellent learning support department and pastoral care system ensure the needs of such students continue to be appropriately addressed during their time at the college.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

New students and parents are provided with suitable information and guidelines in respect of residential arrangements, routines and rules. Appropriate processes and guidance for students in preparation to leaving the college are also in place.

Students benefit from having varied opportunities to express their views and influence how the college operates.

The senior warden is enthusiastic and totally committed to providing good pastoral care for residential students and fully involving them in the development of the hostel provision.

Residential students have a representative on the elected student council and selected student ambassadors. One of the roles of the 'student ambassadors' is to represent students on the governing body.

There are opportunities to meet with course representatives. Students complete surveys once a term in respect of college life. They are also afforded opportunities to raise positive and negative thoughts about college life during one to one tutorials. Students confirm they feel appropriately consulted about matters affecting them and activities they would like to see provided on campus.

Payphones are sited in the residential lodgings and at various points around the campus. Students also have access to e-mail facilities. Majority of students have mobile phones which are used under agreed guidelines. Students confirm there is no difficulty in contacting parents, family and friends. Surveys received from parents and discussions show the college maintains excellent communication regarding welfare matters that affect their children.

### **Achieving economic wellbeing**

The provision is good.

Under 18 year old students' welfare is safeguarded by being accommodated in two dedicated hostels, one male and one female with single bedrooms.



Management acknowledge students would benefit from an increase of indoor communal space, more appropriate furnishings and additional computer facilities.

The college does not accommodate any of its students in offsite lodging arrangements.

Whilst on external activities the welfare of students is well safeguarded. There are comprehensive procedures in place for all off site trips which are rigorously applied and effectively monitored by senior staff. The procedures meet the requirements of the national minimum standards and include provision to ensure relevant risk assessments have been carried out.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The college provides comprehensive information for residential students and their parents which clearly describes the hostel provision, the principles under which it operates, and the support systems available.

A student diary and handbook provides valuable information and clearly explains college guidelines and expectations of student behaviour. In addition the college website provides easy access to college policies and procedures. Students confirm they receive a sufficient level of information.

Systems of communication and record keeping across the college contribute to good student welfare. The college's senior warden is enthusiastic, forward thinking, provides an effective overview of the lodging provision and is committed to its continuing development.

Students confirm they benefit from positive and mutually respectful relationships with the wardens. They rely a lot on the senior warden who is available during the day, evenings and night.

Whilst being clear about their responsibilities and lines of accountability the supervision of residential students falls under the responsibility of one full time senior warden and one part time warden.

Management acknowledge there are insufficient dedicated appropriately trained staff to maintain adequate supervision for the under 18 year old residential students outside teaching time. They agree to ensure this is rectified.

The promotion of equality and diversity throughout the college is excellent. Management and staff create an atmosphere and ethos where meeting individual needs is paramount.

## 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):

- ensure the newly appointed assistant warden completes a full safeguarding of children and young people course (NMS 3)
- provide students more choice of indoor communal space, more appropriate furnishings and additional computer facilities. (NMS 41)
- ensure there are sufficient dedicated appropriately trained staff to maintain adequate supervision for the under 18 year old students outside teaching time. (NMS 29) (Welfare concern)