

Edgehill College

Inspection report for boarding school

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Inspector	Debbi Flint / Jim Palmer
Type of Inspection	Random

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Registered person	Edgehill College
Head / Principal	Stuart Nicholson
Nominated person	
Date of last inspection	3 June 2008

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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

Edgehill College is an independent co-educational day and boarding school with a Methodist Church foundation. It has a kindergarten, junior and senior school. Edgehill College is in the process of merging with Grenville College which is another independent co-educational day and boarding school in a nearby location.

Edgehill College currently occupies a 50 acre site and facilities include a sports hall, theatre and field studies centre.

Two houses are currently being used for boarding provision, one for boys and one for girls. This is currently being reviewed and may be changed in the future when the merger with Grenville College is completed.

Summary

This was an announced random inspection. This was not a key inspection and not all key standards were assessed. The purpose of this inspection was to assess whether the recommendations of the last inspection had been met.

The school is operating at a satisfactory standard overall and there have been some significant improvements since the last inspection. Young people are now benefiting from a more efficiently managed service and the standard of accommodation is improving.

Three recommendations were made at this inspection.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

All areas of weakness which were highlighted at the last inspection have now been addressed and the service has improved considerably. The standard of fire safety around the school and premises has now been judged to be of an acceptable standard by the fire and rescue authority. Safeguarding is now more robust as a result of improved recruitment and vetting procedures and a revised child protection policy. The practice of young people staying occasionally in staff homes for short term visits has now ceased. Training has improved and in particular all staff involved in food preparation now receive appropriate training in food hygiene. Monitoring has improved and all sanction records are now monitored by the headmaster. The standard of accommodation has improved and carpets in boarding areas have been replaced.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The school has a large dining room which is comfortable, pleasantly furnished and very clean. The catering manager has overall responsibility for catering provision and she has a team of three chefs, seven kitchen assistants and 10 cleaners. All catering staff have received training in food hygiene and some boarding staff have also received this training. Staff state that they are aware of the need to ensure that a proportion of boarding staff are trained in safe food handling procedures. The kitchen is clean and catering facilities are well managed. All food is

carefully stored according to good food practice guidelines. Meals are pleasant and orderly occasions. Young people are offered a meat or fish option and a vegetarian option as well as a salad bar. There are also provisions in place to deal with gluten free diets and nut allergies. Young people are positive about the food and they state that their needs are well met. They also state that they can report any special likes or dislikes to catering staff and an alternative will always be offered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There have been various improvements since the last inspection and there are now satisfactory policies and procedures in place to safeguard the young people. The school has a bullying prevention policy. Young people currently do not report any bullying. There is a designated person for child protection who has received child protection training from the local authority. All staff have also received basic child protection training. The school has a child protection policy which is now of the required standard. There have been no child protection referrals since the last inspection. The standard of behaviour around the school is generally good and young people are polite and courteous. The school has a behaviour management policy which lists permissible sanctions. The wording used to describe permissible sanctions is outdated and staff state that this will be revised. All sanctions are recorded. There have been no incidents of restraint since the last inspection. Young people state that they are happy with the school's methods of managing behaviour and that the rules are fair.

Fire risk assessments are in place for both boarding houses and regular fire drills have taken place since the last inspection. Young people state that they are aware of fire safety procedures and have experienced fire drills. Fire equipment is checked on a weekly basis and portable fire equipment is maintained annually. Portable appliances have also been tested. All staff have received fire safety training. A letter from the Department for Children, Schools and Families confirms that they have consulted with the fire authority and are now satisfied that the standards of fire safety around the school are satisfactory.

The school has satisfactory procedures in place for the recruitment and vetting of staff. All overseas gap students arrive with a certificate of good conduct and a police check from their country of origin and a Criminal Records Bureau Check (CRB) is taken up on arrival. All British National staff have CRB's and do not commence work until these are in place. Access to all boarding areas is by keypad. All young people, staff and visitors are expected to sign in and out of a book and there are also magnetic boards in the houses for the sole use of the young people. All boarders' living areas are kept for the exclusive use of boarders except by reasonable invitation to guests.

The school has an activity, trips and visitors' policy and the previous practice of young people occasionally staying over night at the homes of staff has now ceased. Activity risk assessments are in place for all activities and trips. There are also environmental risk assessments in place for both houses.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is satisfactory.

There are currently two boarding houses in use and these are Belvoir and Longfield. Belvoir House accommodates female boarders and Longfield House accommodates male boarders. Both houses are generally clean and well presented. There are common rooms in both houses and these contain televisions, games consoles, board games, play stations, a piano and a pool table. Common rooms are comfortably furnished. Some common areas contain lockers for the safe storage of young people's personal items. Longfield House has adopted the theme of each room being named and decorated after a stop on the London Underground and this is popular with young people. Young people's rooms in both houses are well personalised and contain sufficient storage space for clothes and personal items. All young people's rooms contain desks and beds which are in working order but some of the furniture is very dated and would benefit from being replaced. The carpets in young people's rooms have recently been replaced. There are sufficient showers and washing facilities in both houses. All showers are functional but would benefit from upgrading as some showers have curtains rather than doors and other shower rooms are in need of resealing. Fans in shower areas are also old and would benefit from replacement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The headmaster currently monitors all sanctions and the deputy head is responsible for the monitoring of risk assessments. Accidents are currently monitored by the governors. There have been no complaints since the last inspection. Staff state that they are considering drawing up a monitoring form which will streamline the monitoring process.

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):

- consider replacing bedroom furniture in young people's rooms in both boarding houses (NMS 42.1)
- consider upgrading all shower areas paying attention to both decor and young people's privacy needs (NMS 44.6)
- revise the wording used for permissible sanctions (NMS 4:2)