

Newbury Hall School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Newbury Hall School in Berkshire is an international boarding school that provides exclusively for students aged from 13 to 18 years who come to the school from all parts of the world. The school provides boarding accommodation for its students, either in purpose-built facilities on the campus or with host families in the Newbury area. There are 25 students on roll. Most of them are boys. No student has a statement of special educational needs or has been identified as having a learning difficulty. The school's central purpose is to enable students to improve their use of English and become accredited in GCSE and A-level examinations; to do this it aims to 'put the student at the centre of a learning process that results in high academic achievement'.

The school opened in 2008 and was registered in March 2009. The school was first inspected by Ofsted on 11–12 February 2010.

Context of the inspection

The school was inspected in February 2010 and was found to fail to comply with a number of regulations. The school drew up an action plan for improvement in May 2010 in response to the report. That plan, although broadly satisfactory, was rejected as being in need of further improvement. The school submitted another action plan in July 2010, which was deemed to be unsatisfactory and required improvement.

This is the first progress monitoring visit to the school in order to assess the amount of progress made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous inspection in February 2010 found that, although many of the students appeared to get on well with one another, there was little evidence to indicate that this was supported adequately by what the school provided. The school planned to put in place strategies to improve students' opportunities to socialise and to become part of the community. The school is now building a recognisable community spirit

and is ensuring that students play their part in its running. The school has divided the students into four houses named after countries, each with a captain, and introduced a leader system. There are weekly staff and student meetings, which enable students to contribute to and influence decisions made about the school and the wider community. Students value their school community and willingly take on responsibility in school. They are involved in charitable work to support the wider community. Students participate enthusiastically in sports outside the school and join in activities with other students from other organisations. They also compete in events such as the A Level National Maths Challenge, which recently won them bronze and silver awards.

The earlier inspection found that although the school had sufficient washrooms for its staff and students, these were not separately designated. The school now provides separately designated washrooms for staff and students. These are clearly labelled and used by the respective groups and genders. They are clean and well kept.

During the last inspection, the school did not provide the full range of required information for its parents and others in relation to the safeguarding children policy. This has been remedied. The school has updated its information on its website and published all its policies including the safeguarding children policy. Hard copies are also available to parents.

At the inspection in February 2010, the school did not have an appropriate admission register nor did it maintain attendance registers in the required format. The information was not available to outside bodies. The school has now put all the required registers in place. It has an appropriate admission register which meets requirements and it also ensures that all the attendance registers follow the appropriate format and recommended codes. These are now available for inspection by the appropriate outside bodies.

The inspection also found that the school did not have a three-year plan by which the school could show how it intended to address the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended. The school has now given wider consideration to disabled access and has a three-year accessibility plan in place.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	International boarding school		
Date school opened	2008		
Age range of pupils	13–18 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 20	Girls: 5	Total: 25
Number of boarders	Boys: 13	Girls: 2	Total: 15
Annual fees (day pupils)	£23,000		
Annual fees (boarders)	£26,000		
Address of school	Newbury Hall School Enborne Road Newbury Berkshire RG14 6AD		
Telephone number	01635 36879		
Email address	James.martin@newburyhall.com		
Headteacher	Mr James Martin		
Proprietor	Till Gins		