

# Horizon School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Chanan Tomlin

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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**

Horizon Care (whose head office is based in Cannock) owns a number of children's homes and schools in the midlands and the north west of England. In addition to this school in Whitefield, Bury, the company has one school in Cannock, Staffordshire and another in Deal, Kent. The school is located in a large Victorian terraced house on the main Manchester to Bury road. It has been refurbished for the purpose of education and is a leased property.

The school serves up to eight boys and girls, aged between 11 and 16. These students are unable to attend a local mainstream or special school; they live in one of the company's four locally registered children's homes. All students have statements of special educational needs for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

## **Context of the inspection**

The school was last inspected in June 2009. It produced an action plan that was evaluated in September 2009. This action plan was broadly satisfactory. A small number of planned actions needed to be clarified. The school was required to amend the policy for educational visits to ensure that parental permission was sought for each educational activity, to provide a copy of the updated health and safety policy for evaluation and provide the DCSF with documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. In response, the school produced a second action plan that was evaluated in November 2009. This action plan was satisfactory and no further clarification was required in respect of the areas for improvement. This present visit was made to assess the implementation of the action plan.

## **Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan**

The previous inspection found that the school did not prepare students for their future adequately through its curriculum. The school planned to improve this aspect of the curriculum, seek advice on careers provision and set up alternative transition arrangements. As a result of implementing its plan, the school now equips students

for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life by providing them with work-based learning, alternative curriculum pathways, general careers advice and advice on transition. Students are guided by 'Aimhigher', the government's initiative to promote university attendance, when appropriate, and there is a good system for peer mentoring. Students are actively engaged in on-going work experience and take part in mock interviews to improve their interviewing skills. They learn about entrepreneurs, teamwork, markets, personal finance, advertisement, employment skills. The previous inspection found that classroom resources were inadequate. The school planned to review and improve them. Resources throughout the school are now of a good quality, quantity and range and are used effectively by teachers. Students make good use of information technology in their studies.

It was found during the previous inspection that the curriculum did not provide students with adequate information on services in England or experiences of other cultures. The school planned to improve these aspects of the curriculum. As a result of the improvements, students now gain a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England and acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. Police visit the school to discuss anti-social behaviour and related issues with the students. Students visit galleries, museums, libraries and sports venues and gain insights into university life through 'Aimhigher'. They take part in a project on local ethnic groups and study Indian influences on art. The school has a 'Cultural Week' at the end of the year where they present portfolios on different cultures. They visit Chinatown and enjoy 'reward meals' consisting of foods from around the world. Students also learn about different cultures through art, dance, drama and history.

During the previous inspection, it was found that the health and safety policy was incomplete, that there were no suitable facilities for students who might become ill and that the school did not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The school now has a suitable health and safety policy that includes all of the necessary details. The policy ensures that the school acquires permission from parents before students are taken on educational outings and conducts risk assessments for trips outside school. There is now a suitable room for students that are ill. The school has prepared a policy and a three-year plan to improve accessibility for students that are disabled and now fulfils its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The inspection found shortfalls in the information provided by the school. The school prospectus now contains all of the necessary details. Audited accounts are sent at the end of each financial year to local authorities that fund students attending the school.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Special school for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties		
<b>Date school opened</b>	September 2008		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11-16 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 4	Total: 4
<b>Number on roll (part-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£ 25,782		
<b>Address of school</b>	169 Bury New Road Whitefield Manchester Greater Manchester M45 6AB		
<b>Telephone number</b>	0161 766 4576		
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:horizon.whitefield@horizoncare.co.uk">horizon.whitefield@horizoncare.co.uk</a>		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Steve Ellis		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr Phil McVay		