

Pumping Station School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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.^{1,2}

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

Pumping Station School is an independent special school registered for boys from eight to 16 years of age. The school was first opened in November 2007. Students attend from local authorities in the south of England and all have their places funded by their local authority. The school is housed in a building adjacent to the children's home in a semi-rural location in north-west Kent. There are currently four students aged between 11 and 16 on the school roll, two of whom are looked after by the local authority. Currently, two students live in their own homes and the others are resident in the children's home. Three students have a statement of special educational needs and all have learning or behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. The school aims to provide a context in which students feel safe to learn in a small and nurturing environment. The school's first inspection took place in October 2008. The present headteacher joined the school in March 2010. He is supported by a full-time teaching assistant together with additional support from residential staff, as required.

Context of the inspection

The school was inspected in October 2008 and judged to provide an inadequate quality of education. The school's action plan to address those regulations that were not met was evaluated and accepted in March 2009. A monitoring visit in October 2009 to check the school's progress in implementing its action plan found that most but not all of the regulations were met. The school submitted a further action plan, which was evaluated in May 2010 and found to have some shortcomings. A revised action plan addressing these was evaluated and accepted in July 2010. This second monitoring visit was made to check the progress the school has made in implementing its latest action plan.

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

When the school was inspected in October 2008, the curriculum and its planning were inadequate. The school submitted an action plan, which was evaluated and accepted in March 2009, outlining its proposals to address these shortcomings. At the time of the first progress monitoring visit in October 2009, plans and schemes of work were still incomplete; although they were in place for many subjects, others were at different stages of development. The school submitted a second action plan, which was evaluated and accepted in May 2010. This proposed that outstanding plans and schemes of work would be finalised and implemented. This second progress monitoring visit found that a comprehensive whole school curriculum policy is now in place. Appropriate policies and schemes of work are in place and these are supported by medium-term and short-term planning. There are suitable links between planning and assessment, and guidance on teaching and learning is provided for staff.

When the school was inspected in October 2008, pupils' knowledge of the different faiths and cultural traditions in modern Britain was unsatisfactory as there was, for example, little work undertaken on the study of world religions. The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings which was evaluated and accepted in March 2009. At the time of the first progress monitoring visit in October 2009, the school had made a start in establishing a programme to help pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way that promoted tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions, but progress had been slow. While the school was taking positive action, the impact was not yet sufficient to judge this regulation as met. The school submitted a second action plan which was evaluated and accepted in May 2010. This proposed that provision would be made within the timetable for pupils to study their own and other cultures. The action plan also proposed that a programme of celebration of multi-faith festivals and feasts would be put in place. This progress monitoring visit found that the school has successfully implemented its action plan. Planning and pupils' work show that there are regular opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of other cultures, and that feasts and festivals are featuring in the provision.

The inspection in 2008 found that not all staff had received the required training in child protection. The school submitted an action plan which was evaluated and accepted in March 2009. The first progress monitoring visit in October 2009 found that child protection training had been provided for all staff and was up to date. However, a number of serious omissions in the school's child protection policy were identified during this visit. In response, the school submitted a second action plan in May 2010. This indicated that all the omissions had been addressed but the evaluation of the school's safeguarding children policy, submitted with the action plan, was found to be inadequate. The school submitted a revised action plan which was evaluated and accepted in July 2010. The revised version of the child protection policy submitted with this plan was judged to fully meet requirements. This visit

found that the school has successfully implemented its latest child protection policy. Safeguarding arrangements are good and all staff have received suitable training for their respective roles within the appropriate time scale.

When the school was inspected in October 2008, the required checks had not been made on the medical fitness of all staff and the school did not maintain a single central record of all the checks made on the suitability of staff to work with children. The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings, which was evaluated and approved in March 2009. The first progress monitoring visit in October 2009 found that while the school now made the required checks on all staff and volunteers, not all of the required information was included on its single central record. The school submitted a second action plan, which was evaluated and accepted in May 2010, which asserted that all the required information was now included on its single central record. This progress monitoring visit found that the school's latest single central record now includes those items that were missing at the time of the previous progress monitoring visit.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Independent special for pupils with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties
Date school opened	2007
Age range of pupils	8–16 years
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	4
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	3
Number of pupils who are looked after	2
Annual fees (day pupils)	£30,400
Address of school	c/o TulipCare 19–20 Bourne Court Southend Road Woodford Green Essex IG8 8HD
Telephone number	0845 094 3550
Email address	enquiry@tulipcare.co.uk
Headteacher	Leslie Mukaronda
Proprietor	TulipCare