

Kitebrook House

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

DfE registration number	931/6118
Unique Reference Number (URN)	132013
URN for registered childcare	597408
Inspection number	366483
Inspection dates	18 February 2011
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090137

© Crown copyright 2011



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

Kitebrook House opened in 1955 and is a co-educational preparatory school for boys and girls aged from three to 13 years. It occupies two substantial properties near Moreton-in-Marsh and currently provides for 118 pupils. The school changed ownership in 2007 and the proprietor is now Cothill Educational Trust. The present headteacher was appointed in January 2009. The school's pre-preparatory department is based at Hillside, and includes two Early Years Foundation Stage classes with 18 part-time children in the Nursery and 14 full-time children in the Reception class. Seventeen Early Years Foundation Stage children receive nursery grant funding. Kitebrook House houses the preparatory department for pupils aged from seven to 13. No pupil has a statement of special educational needs. Weekly and flexible boarding is available for pupils in the preparatory department. The school aims to: 'Look at each child's needs and each child's potential, and to provide a secure and loving – yet challenging – background in which all the children can fully thrive and develop.'

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in May 2010 when most, but not all, of the regulations for registration were met. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals to meet the outstanding regulations in August 2010 and this was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. This is the first monitoring visit since the last inspection to check the progress the school has made in implementing its 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

The inspection in May 2010 found that, while the majority of staff had received appropriate child protection training, a small number of more recently appointed staff had not. The school planned to revise and improve its training for all staff. The school has now revised its procedures to ensure that new staff are given a briefing in safeguarding arrangements as part of their induction. Nearly all staff attended safeguarding refresher training in January 2011 and this is currently being extended to the remaining staff.

The inspection in May 2010 found that the school's procedures for educational trips and visits did not comply with the Department's guidance on assessing levels of risk. The school planned to improve its procedures and to produce an emergency plan for school trips. The school has subsequently appointed a member of the teaching staff as the Educational Visits Coordinator who has attended recognised training. A comprehensive set of policies, procedures and risk assessments, including a new emergency action plan, are now in place and have been systematically implemented.

The inspection noted that the school's fire safety assessment in March 2010 had identified a number of deficiencies. A programme of remedial works was undertaken during August 2010 and compulsory fire training for all staff took place in September 2010. The Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service re-inspected the premises on 17 September 2010 and found the school to be broadly compliant. A specific recommendation was made to enable the school to fully conform to the Order and these works have now been completed.

When the school was inspected in May 2010, there were a number of omissions in the school's admission register. The school has now updated its admission register to include all the required information. At the time of the 2010 inspection, the school had not carried out all the required checks on staff and recorded these on a single central register. All the necessary checks have now been completed and they are correctly recorded, in line with requirements.

The inspection in May 2010 found that the school did not make available to parents and carers' particulars of pupils' academic performance from the previous year. In addition, the school's complaints procedure did not include provision for an independent member on the appeals panel. Both these omissions have now been addressed.

One of the requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage was not met at the time of the inspection in May 2010. The school has now put in place and implemented procedures for keeping a central record of medicines administered by staff to children.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Pre-preparatory and preparatory school		
Date school opened	1955		
Age range of pupils	3–13		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 46	Girls: 54	Total: 100
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 11	Girls: 7	Total: 18
Number of boarders	Boys: 14	Girls: 22	Total: 36
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£8,460–11,550		
Annual fees (boarders)	£14,370		
Address of school	Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RP		
Telephone number	01608 674350		
Email address	office@kitebrookhouse.com		
Headteacher	Ms Pippa Quarrell		
Proprietor	Cothill Educational Trust		