Champions for Social Care Improvement



inspection report

Boarding School

Bearwood College

Wokingham Berkshire RG41 5BG

24th – 28th November 2003

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Launched in April 2004, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is the single inspectorate for social care in England.

The Commission combines the work formerly done by the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI), the SSI/Audit Commission Joint Review Team and the National Care Standards Commission.

The role of CSCI is to:

- Promote improvement in social care
- Inspect all social care for adults and children in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Publish annual reports to Parliament on the performance of social care and on the state of the social care market
- Inspect and assess 'Value for Money' of council social services
- Hold performance statistics on social care
- Publish the 'star ratings' for council social services
- Register and inspect services against national standards
- Host the Children's Rights Director role.

Inspection Methods & Findings

SECTION B of this report summarises key findings and evidence from this inspection. The following 4-point scale is used to indicate the extent to which standards have been met or not met by placing the assessed level alongside the phrase "Standard met?"

The 4-point scale ranges from:

- 4 Standard Exceeded (Commendable)
- 3 Standard Met (No Shortfalls)
- 2 Standard Almost Met (Minor Shortfalls)
- 1 Standard Not Met (Major Shortfalls)
- 'O' or blank in the 'Standard met?' box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion.
- '9' in the 'Standard met?' box denotes standard not applicable.
- 'X' is used where a percentage value or numerical value is not applicable.

Name of School Bearwood College Address Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 5BG **Tel No:** 0118 9786915 **Fax No:**

Email Address

Name of Governing body, Person or Authority responsible for the school Mr. J. Bayliss

Name of Head

Mr. S. Aiano NCSC Classification Boarding School Type of school Co-educational independent boarding and day school for children aged 11-18.

Date of last boarding welfare inspection

13/06/01

Date of Inspection Visit		24th November 2003	ID Code	
Time of Inspection Visit		10:00 am		
Name of NCSC Inspector	1	Lucy Martin	098269	
Name of NCSC Inspector	2	Maire Atherton		
Name of NCSC Inspector	3			
Name of NCSC Inspector	4			
Name of Boarding Sector Specialist Inspe (if applicable):	ctor	Jane Pyrgos		
Name of Lay Assessor (if applicable) Lay assessors are members of the public independent of the NCSC. They accompany inspectors on some inspections and bring a different perspective to the inspection process.				
Was this inspection conducted alongside an IS part of a Joint Whole School Inspection?		or OfSTED inspection as	NO	
Name of Establishment Representative at the time of inspection		MR. S. AIANO		

Introduction to Report and Inspection Inspection visits Brief Description of the school and Boarding Provision

Part A: Summary of Inspection Findings What the school does well in Boarding Welfare What the school should do better in Boarding Welfare Conclusions and overview of findings on Boarding Welfare

Notifications to Local Education Authority or Secretary of State Implementation of Recommended Actions from last inspection Recommended Actions from this inspection Advisory Recommendations from this inspection

- Part B: Inspection Methods Used & Findings Inspection Methods Used
 - 1. Welfare Policies and Procedures
 - 2. Organisation and Management
 - 3. Welfare Support to Boarders
 - 4. Staffing
 - 5. Premises
- Part C: Lay Assessor's Summary (where applicable)
- Part D: Head's Response
 - D.1. Comments
 - D.2. Action Plan Status
 - D.3. Agreement

INTRODUCTION TO REPORT AND INSPECTION

Boarding schools are subject to inspection by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) to determine whether the welfare of children (ie those aged under 18) is adequately safeguarded and promoted while they are accommodated by the school.

Inspections assess the extent to which the school is meeting the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, published by the Secretary of State under Section 87C of the Children Act 1989, and other relevant requirements of the Children Act 1989 as amended.

Inspections are carried out by the NCSC, and in most cases the inspection team includes a specialist in boarding provision working, or with experience of working, in the boarding sector. Boarding welfare inspections by NCSC may also be carried out in conjunction with a full inspection of the school by the Independent Schools Inspectorate or OfSTED, so that the two inspections together constitute a Joint Whole School Inspection of the school. In such cases, a joint summary of main findings and recommendations from both inspections will also be available.

This document summarises the inspection findings of the NCSC in respect of Bearwood College.

The report follows the format of the National Minimum Standards and the numbering shown in the report corresponds to that of the standards.

The report will show the following:

- Inspection methods used
- Key findings and evidence
- Overall ratings in relation to the standards
- Recommended Action by the school
- Advisory recommendations on boarding welfare
- Summary of the findings
- Report of the lay assessor (where relevant)
- The Head's response and proposed action plan to address findings

INSPECTION VISITS

Inspections are undertaken in line with the agreed regulatory framework under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Children Act 1989 as amended, with additional visits as required.

The report represents the inspector's findings from the evidence found at the specified inspection dates.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

Bearwood College is an independent co-educational boarding and day school for children aged 11-18. There are 350 pupils, of whom 127 are boarders. There are 4 boarding houses, one for junior boys, a girl's house and two for senior boys.

PART A SUMMARY OF INSPECTION FINDINGS

WHAT THE SCHOOL DOES WELL IN BOARDING WELFARE

The school has a small senior management team, with senior staff who have significant experience in boarding. Boarders were clear that serious instances of bullying are taken seriously and that any punishments given were generally fair. There are robust recruitment procedures in place. Much work has gone into updating and expanding the school's policies and procedures to ensure that they meet the National Minimum Standards.

WHAT THE SCHOOL SHOULD DO BETTER IN BOARDING WELFARE

There is some work to be done to ensure that there is consistent practice in recording between the boarding houses. The complaints procedure is in need of reviewing and work undertaken to upgrade the toilets and bathrooms in one of the boarding houses.

CONCLUSIONS AND OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS ON BOARDING WELFARE

This school has been inspected for the first time against National Minimum Standards introduced from 1 April 2002. As a result, this report may contain a substantial number of recommendations. If so, the number of these should fall significantly at the next inspection when the school will have had time to take account of the new legislation and standards and to take action to meet them.

There was much evidence that the staff at Bearwood College are working hard to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in its care. Some recommendations are made, and some advice given in the text of the report, to build on the standards of care seen.

NOTIFICATIONS TO LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY OR SECRETARY OF STATE

Is Notification of any failure to safeguard and promote welfare to be made by the National Care Standards Commission to the Local Education Authority or Department for Education and Skills under section 87(4) of the Children Act 1989 arising from this inspection?

Notification to be made to:	Local Education Authority	NO
	Secretary of State	NO

The grounds for any Notification to be made are:

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FROM LAST INSPECTION

Were the Recommended Actions from the last Inspection visit fully implemented?

NA

First inspection under NCSC.

If No, the findings of this inspection on any Recommended Actions not implemented are listed below:

No	Standard*	Recommended Actions	

NO

Action Plan: The Head is requested to provide the Commission with an Action Plan, which indicates how Recommended Action and any advisory recommendations are to be addressed. This action plan will be made available on request to the Area Office.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Identified below are the actions recommended on issues addressed in the main body of the report in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders adequately in accordance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools. The references below are to the relevant Standards. Non-implementation of recommended action can lead to future statutory notification of failure to safeguard and promote welfare.

No	Standard*	Recommended Action	
1	BS2	The school reviews its monitoring and actions regarding low level bullying.	27/4/04
2	BS3	The school ensures its child protection procedure complies with Standard 3.	27/4/04
3	BS3	There is a programme of external training for key staff in child protection.	27/6/04
4	BS4	There is greater consistency between boarding houses regarding the punishments given and how they are recorded.	27/4/04
5	BS5	The school reviews its complaints procedure.	27/4/04
6	BS8	The school's governing body has a system to monitor the welfare provision in the school.	27/6/04
7	BS12	The school reviews the opportunities boarders have to contribute their views to the operation of boarding provision.	27/4/04
8	BS15	All medication is kept securely and controlled drugs are double locked.	27/4/04
9	BS15	The medical consent obtained from parents is expanded to include all the areas in Standard 15.4.	27/6/04
10	BS18	The school reviews its support to overseas pupils and consideration is given to providing training for staff on cultural awareness.	27/4/04

11	BS23	There is evidence that the Head, or a senior member of the school's staff is monitoring the records indicated in Standard 23 and Appendix 3.	27/4/04
12	BS24	The outstanding recommendations from the last Environmental Health report are addressed.	27/4/04
13	BS25	There are systems put in place to ensure the temperatures of the fridges in the boarding houses are monitored.	27/4/04
14	BS34	The induction and appraisal system for house staff is reviewed to ensure all staff are included and that there is written evidence of the process.	27/6/04
15	BS34	The role of spouses and partners of staff within boarding houses is made clear.	27/4/04
16	BS39	There is a written agreement between the school and any adult not employed by the school but living in the same building as boarding accommodation which covers all the areas in standard 39.4	27/4/04
17	BS42	There is a programme of upgrading the beds and mattresses in Hawkins House	27/4/04
18	BS42	The shower and toilet facilities in Hawkins and Frobisher house are upgraded.	27/6/04
19	BS47	Risk assessments are undertaken in relation to the need for window restrictors and the overloading of electrical sockets.	27/4/04
20	BS36	The school acts to ensure that the issues relating to one particular boarding house are resolved.	27/4/04

ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Identified below are advisory recommendations on welfare matters addressed in the main body of the report and based on the National Minimum Standards, made for consideration by the school.

No	Refer to Standard*	Recommendation
1	BS21	The pocket money record is signed by both the boarder and a member of staff.

*Note: You may refer to the relevant standard in the remainder of the report by omitting the 2-letter prefix. E.g. BS10 refers to Standard 10.

PART B

INSPECTION METHODS & FINDINGS

The following Inspection Methods have been used in the production of this report.

Direct Observation Pupil guided tour of accommodation Pupil guided tour of Recreational Areas	YES YES YES
Checks with other Organisations and Individuals	
Social Services	YES
Fire Service	YES
 Environmental Health 	YES
• DfES	YES
School Doctor	NO
 Independent Person or Counsellor 	YES
Chair of Governors	NO
'Tracking' individual welfare arrangements	YES
Group discussion with boarders	YES
Group interviews with House staff teams	YES
Group discussion with ancillary staff	YES
Group discussion with Gap students	YES
Individual interviews with key staff	YES
Boarders' survey	YES
Meals taken with pupils	YES
Early morning and late evening visits	YES
Invitation to parents to comment	YES
Inspection of policy / practice documents	YES
Inspection of Records	YES
Visit to Sanatorium	YES
Visits to lodgings	NA
Individual interviews with pupil(s)	YES
Date of Inspection	24/11/03
Time of Inspection	10.00

Duration of Inspection (hrs.)10.00Number of Inspector Days spent on site15

Pre-inspection information and the Head's evaluative statement, provided by the school, have also been taken into account in preparing this report.

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

AGE RANGE OF BOARDING PUPILS	FRO M	10	то	19]	
NUMBER OF BOARDERS (FULL TI	ME + WE	EKLY)	AT TIM	IE OF I	INSPECTION:	
Boys		94				
Girls		33				
			1			
Total		127				
Number of separate Boarding Hous	ses	4				

The following pages summarise the key findings and evidence from this inspection, together with the NCSC assessment of the extent to which standards have been met. The following 4-point scale is used to indicate the extent to which standards have been met or not met by placing the assessed level alongside the phrase "Standard met?"

The 4-point scale ranges from:

- 4 Standard Exceeded (Commendable)
- 3 Standard Met (No Shortfalls)
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"0" in the "Standard met" box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion.

"9" in the "Standard met" box denotes standard not applicable.

"X" is used where a percentage value or numerical value is not applicable.

WELFARE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES The intended outcomes for the following set of standards are:				
 A suitable statement of the school's boarding principles and practice should be available to parents, boarders and staff. Boarders are protected from bullying. Boarders are protected from abuse. Use of discipline with boarders is fair and appropriate. Boarders' complaints are appropriately responded to. Boarders' health is promoted. Safeguarding and promoting boarders' health and welfare are supported by appropriate records. 				
Standard 1 (1.1 – 1.4)				
A suitable statement of the school's boarding princip	es and practice s	hould be		
	es and practice s Standard met?	hould be		

Standard 2 (2.1 – 2.6)

The school should have an effective policy on countering bullying, which is known to parents, boarders and staff and which is implemented successfully in practice.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2	
The school has a policy on countering bullying but team had yet been consulted about the content of discussions regarding what constituted bullying.			
There was feedback from boarders that the situati action was taken, but when this happened the act expressed concerns that there was less action tak was little evidence that monitoring of low level bull boarder's files.	ion was effective. Some bo en regarding low level bull	arders ying and ther	ē
8 out of 120 boarders reported in the questionnaires that they were often bullied or most of the time. This was mainly by pupils of the same age.			
PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS REPORTING NEVE	R OR HARDLY EVER BE	ING 71	%

BULLIED

Standard 3 (3.1 – 3.9)

The school should have, and follow, an appropriate policy on child protection and response to allegations or suspicions of abuse, which is consistent with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures, and is known to staff and, as appropriate, to older boarders in positions of responsibility.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?2The school has an extremely detailed child protection procedure which is consistent with the
local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. There is a shorter version available in the
staff handbook. Although the procedure is detailed, there need to be a few minor changes
made to ensure compliance with this Standard. The policy should be clear that a referral
should be made within 24 hours to the local social services department and to include the
NCSC as an organisation that staff can report to (standard 3.4).2

There is a need to ensure that the staff disciplinary procedure includes the provision for precautionary suspension of staff where necessary pending investigation or final decision following allegations. This procedure should include provision for guidance and support to staff during suspension or investigation while allegations against them are being investigated.

All staff, including ancillary staff, receive a briefing regarding child protection issues, but there is no external training programme in child protection. It is a recommendation that key staff, such as house parents, undertake external training in child protection.

The Headmaster is the senior member of staff designated to take responsibility for child protection issues and has made good links with the local child protection co-ordinator. There was evidence that the school had reacted appropriately to concerns.

The school has a policy in place for the action to be taken if a pupil goes missing from the school.

Standard 4 (4.1 - 4.7)

The school should have, and follow, a fair and appropriate policy on behaviour, discipline and use of punishments, known to boarders, staff and parents.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
The school has a written policy on discipline and advice w	as given that this a	also includes a
statement of policy on the use of restraint. There was a wi	ide variation betwe	en the boarding
houses on what punishments were used and the recording		
examples seen of rewarding good behaviour, particularly a		
	9	
		0 0
		efects also
varied between houses and need to be more clearly define	ed.	
The sanctions used with the older boarders varied as did t books. It is recommended that there is more consistency to punishments used and how they are recorded. The discip varied between houses and need to be more clearly define	the recording in the petween houses re linary powers of pr	e sanctions garding the

The Headmaster maintains a separate record of major punishments which provides a detailed record. Overall, most pupils said that the punishments given were generally fair.

Standard 5 (5.1 - 5.7) The school should have, and follow, an appropriate policy on responding to complaints from boarders and parents. **Key Findings and Evidence** Standard met? The school is in the process of introducing a new complaints policy, based on the ISC model. The procedure does not include information to parents and boarders about how hey can contact the NCSC regarding any complaint concerning welfare and this will need to be added. Boarders spoken with seemed unclear about the complaints procedure although there is open access to the Headmaster. The school currently keeps a record of complaints and advice was given to record all concerns raised. There was evidence that not all complaints had been logged, especially those concerning members of staff. The written record of complaint did not always give a clear picture of how the complaint had been investigated and the outcome. If some of this documentation is elsewhere, advice is given that the location is recorded on the complaints log. Some pupils and staff did not feel that complaints they had raised had been investigated satisfactorily and no outcome had been reported back to them. It is a recommendation that the school reviews its complaints procedure. Number of complaints, if any, received by NCSC about the school during last 0

Standard 6 (6.1 - 6.3)

12 months:

The school should have, and follow, an appropriate policy on countering major risks to health, including substance abuse.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3	
Personal, social and health education is provided and advice is given by the school nurse.			
There is a consistent approach to alcohol, smoking and dr patches from the school nurse and there were seen to be pupils caught smoking.	•		

Standard 7 (7.1 - 7.5)

Adequate records should be kept in relation to individual boarders' health and welfare needs and issues.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
Health information is gathered about each pupil in a form	completed by pare	nts on
admission and is kept in the sanatorium. It includes all the required information and the		
school nurses disseminate relevant information on a 'need to know' basis. The records		
inspected at the sanatorium showed that whilst information is being gathered, when there		
have been gaps, these have not been followed up to date. However, it is recognised that the		ognised that the
school nurse is newly in post and that it is her intention to follow up these omissions so that		issions so that
the information is complete for each boarder.		

Records seen in boarding houses regarding parental contact details included some information about welfare needs. Between the boarding houses, there was a wide range of quality of record keeping noted. Advice is given that there is guidance and consistency between houses.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The intended outcomes for the following set of standards are:

- There is clear leadership of boarding in the school.
- Crises affecting boarders' welfare are effectively managed.
- The school's organisation of boarding contributes to boarders' welfare.
- Boarders have access to a range and choice of activities.
- Boarders are enabled to contribute to the operation of boarding in the school.
- The operation of any prefect system safeguards and promotes boarders' welfare.
- Boarders receive personal support from staff.

Standard 8 (8.1 - 8.3) There should be clear management and leadership of the practice and development of boarding in the school.

Key Findings and Evidence

2 Standard met? The Headmaster has overall responsibility for boarding and the pastoral care of boarders.

The line management for this goes down to the Second Master who has regular contact with the Houseparents and who has substantial experience in boarding practice.

At present, there is no system for the governors to monitor welfare provision in the school.

Standard 9 (9.1 - 9.3)

The school should be capable of satisfactorily managing crises affecting boarders' welfare

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The school has a detailed policy regarding how the school	would respond to	a range of
foreseeable major incidents or crises.		

Standard 10 (10.1 - 10.5)

The organisation of boarding houses or units should operate satisfactorily and provide appropriate protection and separation of boarders by age and gender.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
Some of the boarding houses have poorer physical provis	ion than others, pa	rticularly the two
boarding houses that are part of the main house. The toilets and showers in these houses		these houses
are particularly in need of renovation and the school is aw	are of the need to	update them.

There are some differences in the boarding practices between the houses and the Headmaster has been made aware of particular issues in one house.

Standard 11 (11.1 - 11.6) There should be an appropriate range and choice of activities for boarders outside teaching time.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The responses from the boarders questionnaires showed	that the majority of	boarders feel
that there are sufficient activities outside of school time. T	he youngest boys l	nave a
structured programme of activities at weekends and the ol	der boarders can g	jo out to local
shops and other activities are arranged. Some boarders a	ppreciated the opp	ortunity to do
nothing and some overseas pupils would like to go out an	d see some of the l	ocal sights.

Not all the boarding houses have internet access, but where there is access, there are appropriate safeguards in place and supervision.

Standard 12 (12.1 - 12.2)

Boarders have opportunity to contribute views to the operation of boarding provision.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?2There are opportunities for boarders to air their views at house meetings, food committee
meetings and at school council meetings. The Duty Prefects meet with the Senior
Management Team every day. However, there was little awareness among boarders as to
the organisation of the school council and little formal evidence as to how boarders views
are taken into account in the development and practice of boarding. It is recommended that
this is an area for further development.2

Standard 13 (13.1 - 13.7)

Any prefect system (or equivalent) should give prefects (or equivalent) appropriate specific duties and responsibilities, with adequate staff supervision and measures to counter possible abuses of the role.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3There are House Prefects in all the senior boarding Houses and they are appointed by the
House Master/Mistress. All members of the Lower Sixth are invited to apply to be College
Prefects and all who apply are given a formal interview. Appointments are made by the
Headmaster and all the College Prefects meet with a member of the Senior Management
team weekly.

There is written information regarding the duties, responsibilities and powers of prefects and any sanctions imposed are monitored by Houseparents or senior staff. The prefects were generally found to fulfil their role appropriately. In one House, prefects take the morning register without staff present and advice was given that this practice is discontinued.

Boarders also have opportunities in CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to take on roles of responsibility and leadership.

Standard 14 (14.1 - 14.6)

Each boarder should have one or more members of staff to whom he or she can turn for personal guidance or with a personal problem.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The boarders responses in the questionnaire and when sp	oken with suggest	ed that there
are a range of people at the school that they would talk to if they had a problem. House		
Matrons figured highly as well as House Master/Mistress a	and boarder's Tuto	rs.

The school has appointed someone in September 2003, outside the boarding or teaching staff, to act as an independent listener. This is a positive move and suggestions were made that this person is known to all pupils and has a more proactive role. At present, not all boarders were aware of the independent listener although his telephone number is clearly on display in phone booths.

The independent listener has had a Criminal Records Bureau check undertaken and was clear regarding the need to pass on child protection concerns.

WELFARE SUPPORT TO BOARDERS

The intended outcomes for the following set of standards are:

- Boarders receive first aid and health care as necessary.
- Boarders are adequately supervised and looked after when ill.
- Boarders are supported in relation to any health or personal problems.
- Boarders do not experience inappropriate discrimination.
- Boarders can maintain private contact with their parents and families.
- Boarders' possessions and money are protected.
- New boarders are introduced to the school's procedures and operation, and are enabled to settle in.
- Boarders' welfare is protected in any appointment of educational guardians by the school.
- Risk assessment and school record keeping contribute to boarders' welfare.
- Boarders receive good quality catering provision.
- Boarders have access to food and drinking water in addition to main meals.
- Boarders are protected from the risk of fire.
- Boarders' welfare is not compromised by unusual or onerous demands.
- The welfare of any children other than the school's pupils is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated by the school.
- Boarders' safety and welfare are protected during high-risk activities.
- Boarders have appropriate access to information and facilities outside the school.

Standard 15 (15.1 - 15.14)

Appropriate first aid and minor illness treatment are available to boarders at all times, with access to medical, dental and optical services as required.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
The sanatorium is staffed by qualified nurses between 8ar	m-6pm, Monday to	Friday and
9am-1pm on Saturday. In addition to a full time nurse, the	re is a part time nu	rse who covers
two days a week and also assists with the delivery of the PSHE curriculum. Outside these		Dutside these
hours, school staff have access to the nurses via a mobile phone which the nurse on call		nurse on call
holds.		

Two local GP's hold surgeries twice a week and as one is male, the other female, pupils have access to either. The sanatorium computer is linked with the surgery so NHS health records are easily updated. Emergency dental and optical care can be arranged on a private basis, but parents are expected to arrange these appointments during the holidays.

If first aid or minor illness treatment is required outside the nurse's on duty hours, the normal protocol is that staff always contact the nurse first. This is a specific medical policy for all staff and includes the provision of non-prescribed medication to boarders.

A small stock of medications is kept in the sanatorium within a metal lockable cupboard. This in turn is within another built in cupboard in the surgery room, but neither was locked during the inspection visit and as such, is not seen to be kept securely. It is also advised that a separate specific double locked cupboard should be installed for the safe keeping of controlled drugs, as they are currently stored alongside the rest of the medications.

Records of treatment and medication administration are kept, but in the Sanatorium, the majority of these are entered into a daily logbook. A "kardex" system for each pupil has recently been started, and it is advised that details of each contact with a pupil be entered, plus all medication or treatment given, so as to create an individual total record of each student and to facilitate overview. All records should be dated and signed by the administering member of staff. Within the boarding houses, a standard sheet has been created for the recording of all medications given by staff, but there is evidence that this is not being used across the board. Records seen that deviated from this proforma, however, were of sufficient detail. The nurse plans that she will monitor these records each term to ensure consistency of standard.

An accident book is in existence, and is usually kept in the Sanatorium. However, this was not inspected as the Master at Arms was holding it at the time of the inspection.

Written parental permission is sought from the school to give "emergency care" to the scholars. This is not enough to meet the Standards' requirements, and should be extended to include specifically, the administration of first aid, and appropriate non-prescription medication to boarders, and to seek medical, dental or optical care when required.

Standard 16 (16.1 - 16.3) Boarders who are ill should be regularly checked and adequately looked after by a member of staff, and be able to summon staff assistance readily and rapidly when necessary.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The purpose-built Sanatorium provides a high standard of	accommodation for	or ill boarders
with separate four bedded rooms for boys and girls, each	with separate toile	t facilities. There
is scope to extend this as the building is not currently fully	utilised, and a reco	ent change has
been a single room at the other end of the building that co	uld be used if isola	ition was
required.		

The nurse remains on site should ill boarders be in need of care out of normal duty hours, and is easily accessible within the building in a separate bed-sit. On occasion the female gap student provides assistance in the Sanatorium to enable the nurse to leave the building.

Standard 17 (17.1 - 17.8)		
Significant health and personal problems of individual boarders should be identified and managed appropriately.		
In terms of pupils with learning support needs, the study support are identified and any support given. There were also when there had been family bereavements. Staff generally regarding pupils who might be experiencing personal difficult sensitive strategies for supporting them. However, there we ordinated approach by teaching staff and house staff when needs. There were differences between Houses with some and the need for support, than others and this was support	so examples of ext y showed a caring a culties and adopted vas little evidence to n supporting emotion e showing a better	ra support given attitude I suitable o show a co- onal or welfare understanding

Standard 18 (18.1 - 18.6) Within the school, there is no inappropriate discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, race, religion, cultural background, linguistic background, sexual orientation, or academic or sporting ability. These factors are taken into account in the care of boarders, so that care is sensitive to different needs.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?2The school has a number of overseas pupils and in the college there are normally between
10-15% who are from a different culture and who speak a different language. It is the
schools expectation that any differences are minimised and all pupils are subject to the
same rules and expectations. Some overseas boarders were finding it hard to settle,
especially those who did not have peer support from those who came from the same
country, or who spoke the same language. Care needs to be taken that these pupils are fully
integrated into the school on every level, both in the classrooms and in the boarding houses,
with a working knowledge of each of their cultures. Advice is given to consider inset training
on cultural awareness.

The kitchen was ensuring that food likes and dislikes of overseas pupils were accommodated and the tuck shop provided appropriate snack foods. The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provided good support for pupils.

Standard 19 (19.1 - 19.6) Boarders are enabled to contact their parents and families in private.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3All the boarding houses have private phone booths which have helpline numbers displayed.Boarders can use mobile phones and most boarders own one.

Standard 20 (20.1 - 20.3)

Reasonable protection is provided for boarders' personal possessions and for any boarders' money or valuables looked after by the school.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3All the boarding houses operate a system whereby the boarders give the HouseMaster/Mistress pocket money for safekeeping. Advice was given that the boarder and a
member of staff sign the record sheet kept.

All the boarders have a lockable space to keep personal possessions and valuables.

Standard 21 (21.1 - 21.3)

There is an appropriate process of induction and guidance for new boarders.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
The school gives new boarders a handbook on arrival at the	ne school. Conside	ration could be
given to sending the handbook in advance, so that parents	s can go through th	ne information
with their child. There is no formal buddying or mentoring	system in place, al	though new
boys all live in Jellicoe House for the first two years.		

Some boys expressed concerns about moving from Jellicoe House onto the senior boys houses. An induction evening is held but a more in depth induction could be considered with the older boys acting as mentors.

Standard 22 (22.1 - 22.4)

Any guardians appointed by the school should be subject to the same recruitment checks as staff, and their care of pupils should be monitored.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3The school makes it clear to parents that the school does not appoint guardians and that any
arrangements are the responsibility of parents. There are members of staff employed by the
school who do act as guardians for some of the boarders. Advice was given to ensure that
all the appropriate checks had been carried out on these staff.3

Standard 23 (23.1 - 23.4)

The Head, or a senior member of the school's staff, regularly monitors the school's records of risk assessments, punishments, complaints and accidents, to identify any issues requiring action.

Key Findings and Evidence

Standard met?

There was evidence that the Head monitors the major punishments book and complaints book. Other records in need of monitoring at least twice a term include the administration of medication, treatment and first aid, accidents and risk assessments. There are plans in place to ensure that the school nurse monitors the administration of medication in the Boarding Houses and the Headmaster receives a copy of accidents and incidents termly. Advice was given to evidence that the monitoring has taken place by signing the record seen.

2

Standard 24 (24.1 - 24.8)		
Meals should be provided to boarders, which are adequate in quantity, quality and		
choice, and provision is made for special dietary, medical or religious needs.		needs.
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3

Key Findings and Evidence	Stanuaru met f	5
The majority of boarders at the school find the food average	ge. There is always	a vegetarian
choice at main meals and in addition, a salad bar at lunchtime. Generally, pupils felt that the		pils felt that the
food has improved over time and the Sunday brunch was	popular.	

The Dining hall and kitchen facilities were built when the school was smaller, and there are significant queues at all meal times despite staggering the houses at different times. This has a detrimental effect on the overall eating ambience, and at peak times the students also have to queue to dispose of their trays, and leave. It is recommended that the school review this, and give consideration to extending the length of serving times, so that the stagger could also be extended.

There are a number of outstanding, urgent recommendations from the last Environmental Health report, mostly relating to out of date equipment, which need to be addressed before March 2004.

Standard 25 (25.1 - 25.5) Boarders have access to drinking water in both boarding and teaching areas, and to food or the means of preparing food at reasonable times in addition to main meals.		
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
Drinking water is available in all the boarding houses and is well labelled in Jellicoe and Drake. Advice is given to ensure outlets in other houses are clearly labelled. The school has its own water supply and the inspectors were informed that the quality of the water is monitored by the water authority.		The school has

Snacks are available and are either provided by the school or purchased at the tuck shop. All the houses have fridges in which boarders can store their food. At the moment there is no monitoring of the temperature of these fridges and it is recommended that regular fridge temperatures are taken. Standard 26 (26.1 - 26.5)

Boarders and boarding staff should be aware of emergency evacuation procedures from boarding accommodation. The school should comply with recommendations of the Fire Service, and should regularly carry out and record risk assessments in relation to fire, together with fire drills and any routine tests recommended by the Fire Service.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3There has been a recent upgrading of the fire alarm system in the main house and regular
testing and servicing of the alarm system, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers routinely
takes place.3

Regular fire drills are carried out with records kept. Boarders spoken with were aware of the evacuation procedures. Advice was given to review the use of door wedges in some of the boarding houses.

Standard 27 (27.1 - 27.3)

Schools where there are unusual or especially onerous demands on boarders ensure that these are appropriate to the boarders concerned and do not unacceptably affect boarders' welfare.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3There was an awareness among staff that boarders have a busy life with demands outside
of the school day. Boarders who have difficulty managing are spoken with and helped to cut
down on non-academic activities.3

Boarders were clear that they still have some free time and the change to a Sunday brunch was appreciated to allow a lie-in on Sundays.

Standard 28 (28.1 - 28.2)The welfare of any children accommodated at the school, other than pupils, is
protected.Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?9

Not applicable.

Standard 29 (29.1 - 29.6)		
Identifiably high-risk activities provided for boarders	should be compete	ently
supervised and accompanied by adequate and approp	oriate safety measu	ires.
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
A wide range of risk assessments were seen relating to CCF activities and the DOE award. The Ministry of Defence inspect the rifle range and issue a certificate which was on display. Safety measures are taken seriously and adhered to.		
Written parental permission is obtained for each specific a information.	ictivity as well as rele	evant medical

Standard 30 (30.1 - 30.5)		
Boarders have access to information about events in the world outside the school,		
and access to local facilities, which is appropriate to t	heir age.	
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
Older boarders can leave the school site to go to Wokingham or Reading, but this is		
dependent on year group and there are rules regarding the number of boarders to go		
together. The supervision arrangements are appropriate a	and there is a signir	ng in/out book in
each house.		

Boarders have access to a range of newspapers as well as other sources of information such as televisions and radios.

STAFFING

The intended outcomes for the following set of standards are:

- Boarders are adequately supervised by staff.
- Staff exercise appropriate supervision of boarders leaving the school site.
- Boarders are adequately supervised at night.
- Boarders are looked after by staff with specific boarding duties, with adequate induction and continued training.
- Boarders are looked after by staff following clear boarding policies and practice.
- There are sound relationships between staff and boarders.
- Boarders' personal privacy is respected.
- There is vigorous selection and vetting of all staff and volunteers working with boarders.
- Boarders are protected from unsupervised contact at school with adults who have not been subject to the school's complete recruitment checking procedures and there is supervision of all unchecked visitors to the boarding premises.

Standard 31 (31.1 - 31.7)

The staff supervising boarders outside teaching time should be sufficient in number and deployment for the age, number and needs of boarders, and the locations and activities involved.

Key Findings and Evidence

Standard met?

There are appropriate levels of staff supervision in the boarding houses. Each evening a house tutor is on duty and is available in the house. House masters/mistresses are also contactable. In one house in the mornings it is common practice for boarders to be woken by house prefects who take the register and who are later joined by the house parent. It is advised that this practice is looked into and to ensure that a member of staff is in the house when pupils are woken.

Boarders are aware of the member of staff on duty and how to contact staff at night.

3

Standard 32 (32.1 - 32.5) Boarders temporarily away from the school site remain under the overall responsibility of a duty member of staff, and are able to contact a member of staff in an emergency.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
There are appropriate supervision arrangements for board	lers leaving the scl	nool site. Mobile
phones are carried by the staff on duty and there is a policy covering school transport and		
the use of private vehicles.		-

Gap students are used to take pupils to medical appointments outside the school site, but it is policy that they take a mobile phone with them.

Standard 33 (33.1 - 33.5) Staff should be present, and accessible to boarders as necessary, in each boarding house at night.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3The boarding houses have at least one adult member of staff sleeping in each boarding
house at night and boarders are able to easy contact staff at night.3

Standard 34 (34.1 - 34.7)

All staff with boarding duties have job descriptions reflecting those duties, receive induction training in boarding when newly appointed, and receive regular review of their boarding practice, with opportunities for continuing training in boarding.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?1New house parents do have an induction to the role and regular meetings with the Second
Master who takes the leads on boarding. However, it is recommended that the induction is a
more formal system with more written evidence of the areas covered.1

There is a system of appraisals for house parents every two years. It is recommended that new house parents are appraised earlier than this and that there is a system of appraisals for house Matrons.

One house parent has attended an external training course and another member of house staff is currently half way through a BSA qualification. Advice was given to the school to encourage new house parents to develop their boarding practice by attending outside courses.

The role of spouses and partners of staff within boarding houses is unclear and the school needs to develop written guidance in this area.

Standard 35 (35.1 - 35.4)

All staff with boarding duties are provided with up to date written guidance on the school's boarding policies and practice.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The school has a staff handbook which contains a wide range of information. In addition, the		
school has worked hard to produce a comprehensive number of written policies and		
procedures. Many of these are in their early stages and have been written without		
consultation with staff. It is anticipated that further work in this area will be undertaken.		

Standard 36 (36.1 - 36.4)

There are sound staff/boarder relationships.		
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
Overall, there were found to be good relationships betwee	en the staff and boa	rders. Boarders
felt that the staff treat them fairly and without favouritism.		
In one boarding house, relationships were found to be less positive. There have been		
disagreements between staff and boarders which have not been resolved. There were		
concerns expressed regarding the behaviour of staff to bo		
inspectors have given the Headmaster further details rega	arding this and this	matter will be

Standard 37 (37.1 - 37.2)Staff supervision of boarders should avoid intruding unnecessarily on boarders'
privacy.Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3

Boarders were satisfied with the levels of supervision and did not feel that staff were intrusive.

followed up in separate correspondence outside of this inspection.

Standard 38 (38.1 - 38.10)

Recruitment of all staff (including ancillary staff and those on a contractual/sessional basis) and volunteers who work with boarders (as defined in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000) includes checks through the Criminal Records Bureau checking system (enhanced as appropriate), with a satisfactory outcome. There is a satisfactory recruitment process recorded in writing.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3The school has robust recruitment procedures and good efforts have been by the
Headmaster's secretary in ensuring that all the appropriate checks are undertaken. Areas of
good practice include ensuring that gap students have police checks and an awareness that
adults living on the same premises as children (for example adult members of staff
households) need to have a Criminal Records Bureau check undertaken.3

Advice was given to make direct contact with each referee to verify the reference and ensure that the reference letter sent out when employing ancillary staff, specifically asks all referees to state any known reason why that person should not be employed to work with children.

Standard 39 (39.1 - 39.4) The school does not allow any member of staff (including ancillary staff, sessional/contract staff and volunteers) to work unsupervised with boarders unless that member of staff has been satisfactorily checked with the Criminal Records Bureau.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?2The school ensures that CRB checks are carried out on ancillary staff and visitors without
checks are supervised.2

It is recommended that there is a written agreement between the school and any adult not employed by the school but living in the same building as boarding accommodation (for example adult members of staff households). This written agreement should contain all the areas outlined in standard 39.4.

PREMISES

The intended outcomes for the following set of standards are:

- Boarders are provided with satisfactory accommodation.
- Boarders have their own accommodation, secure from public intrusion.
- Boarders have satisfactory sleeping accommodation.
- Boarders have satisfactory provision to study.
- Boarders have adequate private toilet and washing facilities.
- Boarders have satisfactory provision for changing by day.
- Boarders have access to a range of safe recreational areas.
- Boarders are protected from safety hazards.
- Boarders are suitably accommodated when ill.
- Boarders' clothing and bedding are adequately laundered.
- Boarders can obtain personal requisites while accommodated at school.
- The welfare of boarders placed in lodgings is safeguarded and promoted.
- The welfare of boarders is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated away from the school site on short-term visits.

Standard 40 (40.1 - 40.8)

Boarding Houses (including dormitories and living areas) and other accommodation provided for boarders should be appropriately lit, heated and ventilated, suitably furnished, accessible to any boarders with disabilities, and adequately maintained.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3Overall, the standard of accommodation provided for boarders is satisfactory. All areas were
clean and the decoration is adequate.3

The accommodation in the two outlying houses, Jellicoe and Drake, is significantly better than that of the two houses in the main building.

Standard 41 (41.1 - 41.8)

Boarding accommodation is reserved for the use of those boarders designated to use it, and protected by access by the public.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3The school has good security arrangements and all outside doors have keypad locks. Advice
was given to review the arrangements to enter Frobisher House. Some of the houses
already have CCTV in the communal areas and there are plans to extend the system to all
the boarding houses in due course. Drake house has alarmed doors and windows at night.

It was found that some lighting on the school site at night was inadequate and the inspectors were informed that there is a programme of upgrading in place.

Standard 42 (42.1 - 42.14)

Sleeping accommodation is suitably furnished and of sufficient size for the number, needs and ages of boarders accommodated, with appropriate separation between genders, age groups and from accommodation for adults.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
Sleeping accommodation varied between houses and there were larger rooms and fewer		
sharing in Drake and Jellicoe houses. All sleeping areas seen had adequate floor covering		
and storage space.		

In the main house it was found that there was a huge variety of beds, some of which were not of good quality. There were some cases where the mattresses were smaller than the beds. Some boarders spoken with found the beds uncomfortable. It is recommended that there is a programme of upgrading the beds and the mattresses.

Standard 43 (43.1 - 43.2) Suitable facilities for both organised and private study are available to boarders.		
Key Findings and Evidence Standard met? 3		
Pupils complete their prep either in their rooms or in organised groups. All facilities for study were satisfactory.		

Standard 44 (44.1 - 44.10) Adequate toilet and washing facilities are readily accessible to boarders, with appropriate privacy.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?2All the boarding houses have adequate numbers of toilets, washbasins and showers. The
facilities are above average in Drake house, with a washbasin in every bedroom. The school
has recognised that the shower and toilet facilities in the two boarding houses in the main
house are not acceptable. The facilities are old, poorly ventilated and tiles and paint are
coming off the walls. The school has prioritised this area for upgrading work in the near
future.

Standard 45 (45.1 - 45.3)Suitable changing provision is provided for use by day.Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3The changing facilities seen were suitable. Most sports changing is done in the boarding houses.3

Standard 46 (46.1 - 46.6)Boarders have access to a range and choice of safe recreational areas, both indoors
and outdoors.Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3

Boarders have access to a range of recreational facilities in and out of their boarding houses. There are games rooms as well as televisions, DVD players and videos. The gym facilities can be used during some evenings after prep.

Standard 47 (47.1 - 47.9)

Indoor and outdoor areas used by, or accessible to, boarders should be free from reasonably avoidable safety hazards.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	2
There were a number of windows in the boarding houses	that present a risk	to safety and
should be fitted with opening restrictors. In the older board		
electrical sockets which has led to the general use of extension leads and the possible		
overloading of sockets. It is recommended that this area is clarified and possible dangers		
assessed. The fridges in the kitchens in the boarding hous		their
temperatures monitored and this should be happening on	a daily basis.	

Risk assessments have been undertaken in high risk areas within the school and the grounds. There are clear out of bounds areas of the school grounds that are recognised by students as being for their safety. There are zones around the lake and woods, where they may not go, where they may go, and where they may go accompanied by staff.

Standard 48 (48.1 - 48.4)

Suitable accommodation should be available for the separate care of boarders who are ill.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
All ill pupils are cared for in the Sanatorium with separate spacious provision for boys from		
girls, and the option of either a room with four beds, or a single room as deemed		
appropriate. Each has washing and toilet provision close t	by.	

Standard 49 (49.1 - 49.3)		
Adequate laundry provision is made for boarders' clo	thing and bedding	
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
The school has a laundry facility on site which is operated There was positive feedback about the laundry service fro Each house has a washing machine and boarders can as delicate items.	om house matrons a	nd boarders.

Standard 50 (50.1 - 50.2) Boarders are able to obtain minor necessary personal and stationery items while accommodated at school.

Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	3
Students have access to a nearby grocery store during so	me free time, but t	here is also a
tuck shop in school, which supplies a small range of perso	onal toiletries and s	tationary items.

Standard 51 (51.1 - 51.11) Any lodgings arranged by the school to accommodate accommodation and supervision, are checked by the monitored by the school during use.		_
Key Findings and Evidence	Standard met?	9
Not applicable.		

Standard 52 (52.1 - 52.8)

Any off-site short-stay accommodation arranged by the school for any of its boarders provides satisfactory accommodation and supervision, is checked by the school before use (although this may not be feasible when accommodation is in private households), and is monitored by the school during use.

Key Findings and EvidenceStandard met?3Any off site accommodation used is in connection with CCF or the DOE award. The
accommodation used by the CCF is approved by the Ministry of Defence and for the DOE
they use recognised campsites, youth hostels or the campsite has been visited before the
trip to check suitability.

The sanatorium is contacted and a form completed concerning medical needs of pupils and any medication needed is securely stored.

LAY ASSESSOR'S SUMMARY

(where applicable)

Lead Inspector _____ Signature _____

Date

Second

PART D

D.1 Head's comments/confirmation relating to the content and accuracy of the report for the above inspection.

We would welcome comments on the content of this report relating to the Inspection conducted on 24 - 28 November 2003 and any factual inaccuracies:

Please limit your comments to one side of A4 if possible Bearwood College is enthusiastically eager to continue to do all that is appropriate to protect and develop the welfare of our boarders in line with the National Standards.

A concern experienced in achieving this in a mutually satisfactory manner is the absence of precise definitions of what is expected and/or acceptable within many of the Standards. We need greater clarity under each Standard of what is precisely required across the 4-point scale of assessment.

Without clear identification of "best practice", both currently within College and externally in the form of precise guidance, uncertainty is inevitable. In the absence of specific definitions and explanations, we have to embark on making adjustments to our practice in good faith in the light of generalised NCSC recommendations, without knowing whether our adjustments will be deemed appropriate/adequate at a subsequent inspection. This problem is likely to be especially evident where the language of Standards (eg "reasonable", appropriate", "adequate", "sufficient", "suitable" etc) required subjective judgements. Where some staff/areas are achieving the highest standards, it would be useful to have them identified so that we are enabled to spread their "best practice" further.

I am happy to discuss any of these issues further with NCSC personnel.

Note is taken of the remark on Page 6 of the Report of the expectation that "the number of (recommendations) should fall significantly at the next inspection". Nevertheless, more detailed universal guidance and direction over the full 278 targets contained within the 52 Standards would facilitate a more successfully effective and efficient collaboration over boarders' welfare.

I should make clear that our Lead Inspector has endeavoured to be personally helpful in a number of individual areas, over and above the Inspection procedure.

Factual Inaccuracies

The following factual inaccuracies in the draft Report were identified:

- Page 10 The Chairman of Governors was not consulted by the Inspectors, as indicated.
- Page 28 Mr Cheeseman has successfully completed the BSA "Certificate of Professional Practice" qualification, and Mrs Webster is currently halfway through.

Action taken by the NCSC in response to Head's comments:

Amendments to the report were necessary	YES
Comments were received from the Head	YES
Head's comments/factual amendments were incorporated into the final inspection report	YES
Head's comments are available on file at the Area Office but have not been incorporated into the final inspection report. The inspector believes the report to be factually accurate	NO
Note:	

In instances where there is a major difference of view between the Inspector and the Head both views will be made available on request to the Area Office.

D.2 Please provide the Commission with a written Action Plan which indicates how recommended actions and advisory recommendations are to be addressed and stating a clear timescale for completion. This will be kept on file and made available on request.

Status of the Head's Action Plan at time of publication of the final inspection report:

Action plan was required	NO
Action plan was received at the point of publication	YES
Action plan covers all the recommended actions in a timely fashion	YES
Action plan did not cover all the recommended actions and required further discussion	NO
Head has declined to provide an action plan	NO
Other: <enter details="" here=""></enter>	

D.3 HEAD'S AGREEMENT

Head's statement of agreement/comments: Please complete the relevant section that applies.

D.3.1 I, Stephen Aiano of Bearwood College confirm that the contents of this report are a fair and accurate representation of the facts relating to the inspection conducted on the above date(s) and that I agree with the recommended actions made and will seek to comply with these.

Print Name	
Signature	
Designation	
Date	

Or

D.3.2 I, Stephen Aiano of Bearwood College am unable to confirm that the contents of this report are a fair and accurate representation of the facts relating to the inspection conducted on the above date(s) for the following reasons:

Print Name	
Signature	
Designation	
Date	

Note: In instance where there is a profound difference of view between the Inspector and the Head both views will be reported. Please attach any extra pages, as applicable.