

# The Ryes School and Community

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Judith Charlesworth

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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**

The Ryes School caters for students who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Most have additional needs, such as autistic spectrum disorder, conduct disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The school is part of The Ryes College Organisation which took over ownership from the previous proprietors (The Ryes School Organisation) in April 2011. The school is registered to admit up to 37 boys and girls, and currently has six students on roll aged 14 to 16 years. All students are looked after and funded by their local authority. All have a statement of special educational needs and live in the organisation's children's homes. The current headteacher took up her post in December 2010 following a period of unsettled leadership since the last inspection, during which time there were three other headteachers. She is also the headteacher of the organisation's other school, located nearby, which caters for students with complex learning needs.

## **Context of the inspection**

The school was inspected in July 2005 and the quality of education was found to be inadequate. Subsequent progress monitoring visits to judge the school's progress in relation to its action plans found that inadequate progress was being made. A full inspection in April 2008 found that the school's provision was still inadequate. Three further progress monitoring visits were made between February 2009 and January 2010. Progress was found to be inadequate in all of these. A fourth visit was made in October 2010 which found that the school had made satisfactory progress towards the implementation of its action plan, and only one regulation was not fully met. The school's response to this finding was judged to be satisfactory in February 2011. The most recent social care inspections of the three children's homes in which the students live show improvement, and all were judged to be good. This is the school's fifth monitoring visit since the inspection in 2008.

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

The monitoring visit of October 2010 found that the school's safeguarding policy did not include the name of the designated officer for child protection, and did not specify the training that staff must undertake. No action plan was submitted, but the

revised safeguarding policy was submitted instead. This was found to meet requirements, with a recommended check on its implementation.

The school has amended its safeguarding policy and developed numerous good quality systems to ensure its effective implementation, and to safeguard students in a wide context. The head of care is the designated officer for all safeguarding matters in both the school and children's homes. Additional staff in both settings are also trained as designated officers. They are all named in the policy, along with their contact telephone numbers. Any safeguarding concerns are referred immediately to these designated people and the clear procedures outlined in the policy are carefully followed should the need arise.

The required staff training is now outlined in the safeguarding policy. Safeguarding training is at the top of the school's 'mandatory training' list and all staff have received appropriate training in line with the policy.

The safeguarding policy and its implementation now meet requirements.

## **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 pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties		
<b>Date school opened</b>	1983		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	14–16 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 4	Girls: 2	Total: 6
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 4	Girls: 2	Total: 6
<b>Number of pupils who are looked after</b>	Boys: 4	Girls: 2	Total: 6
<b>Annual fees</b>	£250,000		
<b>Address of school</b>	Ryes Lane Little Henny Sudbury CO10 7EA		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01787 374998		
<b>Email address</b>	Jackie.shanks@theryescollege.org.uk		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Jackie Shanks		
<b>Proprietor</b>	The Ryes College Organisation		