

# New Elizabethan School

Independent school emergency inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Jane Melbourne HMI

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## **Purpose and scope of the inspection**

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted at the request of the Registration Authority. It was conducted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

## **Information about the school**

The New Elizabethan School is a co-educational independent day school which opened in January 2007 and provides education for pupils aged four to 16 years of age. The school is registered for 100 pupils and there are currently 26 pupils on roll. Nine pupils attend part time. The school also runs a fortnight's holiday club in the summer vacation. The school opened a nursery for children under five years of age in the summer term of 2010, but this was subsequently closed in the autumn term 2010. The school is situated in the village of Hartlebury in Worcestershire. It caters for pupils who have found learning and school attendance difficult. There are five pupils who have a statement of special educational needs.

At the time of the last Ofsted inspection in June 2010, the school was required to: put in place a framework by which pupil progress could be evaluated; prepare and implement written policies to prevent bullying and on first aid; maintain attendance registers in accordance with regulations; maintain a single central register of all volunteers and staff who work at the school which fully complies with Department for Education requirements and provide sufficient washrooms for staff and pupils.

## **Reason for visit**

The purpose of the visit was to investigate three complaints received about the school. During the visit, the inspector also assessed the school's progress towards compliance since the last inspection. No arrangement was made to speak with pupils during the visit or to tour the main school building. The Department for Education requested this to be an unannounced visit.

## **Conclusions**

This inspection found there to be 18 unmet independent school regulations, including some of the unmet regulatory requirements from the last inspection which had not been addressed. Staffing at the school has been unstable since the last inspection. There has been a high turnover of both teaching and administrative staff.

There are currently around a third of the pupils who attend on a part-time basis. All pupils are of compulsory school age. The school does not ensure that all of these pupils receive a full-time education as it fails to liaise sufficiently closely with parents who opt to home-school their children on the remaining days, nor does it liaise with any other maintained school named on any pupil's statement of special educational needs.

At the last inspection, the school was required to put in place a framework by which pupils' performance could be evaluated by reference to the school's own aims or by national norms. The school has created a new assessment policy and framework, but has not fully implemented it. Also at the last inspection, the school was required to ensure there were shower facilities as required by the regulations. No adaptation has been made to the school accommodation since the last inspection and, therefore, the school does not fully meet the regulation regarding washrooms. The school has prepared and implemented satisfactory written policies on preventing bullying and on first aid. It maintains attendance registers in accordance with regulations. No single central register of checks on the suitability of staff could be made available to the inspector during this visit.

The school's policy to promote good behaviour is not implemented effectively. This is evidenced in the very high volume of incidents and accidents at the school in the last and current academic year and the school's inconsistency in dealing with them as evident from the records. The school is not adequately following procedures for admissions.

In investigating the complaint from the former governor, this inspection found that the governing body had been disbanded in summer term 2010. In investigating the complaints from the former parents, this inspection found that the school was failing to adequately protect the welfare, health and safety of pupils, that there were inadequate arrangements for safeguarding and that the security arrangements for the school were insufficiently rigorous.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

As a result of this inspection visit, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010<sup>1</sup> ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure the curriculum give pupils of compulsory school age a full time education with experience in the following areas of learning: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative (paragraph 2(2)(a))
- provide a framework by which pupil performance can be evaluated by reference to either the school's own aims, as provided to parents, and/or by national norms (paragraph 3(g))
- ensure the arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils at the school are effective and have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state. Ensure that all references confirming staff's suitability to work with young people and a declaration of physical and mental fitness to work with young people are received prior to commencement of

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm)

employment. Follow the correct procedure where safeguarding concerns have been raised about a member of staff and notify the Independent Safeguarding Authority accordingly. Ensure staff are aware of their duties in this respect (paragraph 7)

- ensure that good behaviour is promoted amongst pupils and that sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving are clear and consistently implemented (paragraph 9)
- ensure staff training in respect of safeguarding children and safe recruitment is up to date and there are clear procedures for child protection in place in the case of any disclosures or allegations by or against staff or pupils. Assess any current risks to pupils and put into immediate place effective measures to ensure pupils' health and safety which have regard to the DfE guidance (paragraph 11)
- record the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour (paragraph 16)
- maintain an admission register in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (paragraph 17)
- check that no member of staff is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (ISA barred list) or that no member of staff carries out work, or intends to carry out work, at the school in contravention of any direction made under section 142 of the 2002 Act, or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction (a List 99 check) (paragraph 19(2)(a))
- carry out appropriate checks, including obtaining full references, and obtain certification of medical fitness on all members of staff (paragraph 19(2)(b))
- ensure an enhanced criminal bureau (CRB) check has been made by the proprietor in respect of any member of staff appointed to a position at the school and ensure that the enhanced CRB certificate which is the subject of the application is obtained before or as soon as is practicable after the person's appointment (paragraph 19(2)(c))
- ensure that checks as outlined in paragraph 19(2)(b) are made on individuals prior to appointment (paragraph 19(3))
- ensure appropriate checks are carried out for any incoming members of a governing body (paragraph 21)
- maintain a legible up-to-date single central register in accordance with current regulations (paragraph 22(2)) and ensure it contains all the relevant information (paragraph 22(3))
- ensure there are adequate security arrangements in place for the grounds and buildings, including the main school building and the outside toilet block (paragraph 23(d))

- make sure there are sufficient washrooms for staff and pupils, including facilities for pupils with special needs and disability, which take account of regulations 3 and 4 of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 23(j))
- provide safe outside space for pupils to play (paragraph 23(s))
- ensure there is a procedure which is followed for written records to be kept of all complaints, indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing (paragraph 25(j)).

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Day all-age school		
<b>Date school opened</b>	January 2007		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4-16 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 12	Girls: 5	Total: 17
<b>Number on roll (part-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 6	Girls: 3	Total: 9
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 3	Girls: 2	Total: 5
<b>Number of pupils who are looked after</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£11,100		
<b>Address of school</b>	Quarry Bank The Village Kidderminster DY11 7TE		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01299 250258		
<b>Email address</b>	info@newelizabethanschool.org.uk		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Andrew McDouall		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Annabel Goodman		