

New Elizabethan School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	David Young

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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 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. Five pupils attend part time. The school also runs a fortnight's holiday club in the summer vacation. 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.

Context of the inspection

The last full inspection of the school was in June 2010. An unannounced emergency inspection visit took place in November 2011. At this inspection the school was judged to have failed to meet the requirements of 17 regulations. An action plan was submitted in January 2012. This plan was approved with modifications in February 2012. This progress monitoring visit was arranged to check the progress made by the school with the implementation of its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the time of the inspection visit in November 2011 about one third of the pupils registered at the school attended part-time. The inspection judged that the school did not ensure that these pupils received a full-time education as it did not liaise sufficiently closely with parents who opt to home-school their children; or with any other maintained school named on a pupil's statement of special educational needs. The school in its action plan stated that the school would appoint a 'flexi-school coordinator' and devise and implement a 'flexi-school policy'. It planned to agree a programme of work with the parents of any pupil receiving part-time education other than at the school. There are currently five pupils attending part-time. The school has appointed a 'flexi-school coordinator' and produced a policy which is shared with all parents of part-time pupils. The school coordinator now meets with parents weekly or fortnightly for formal coordination meetings. The work completed at school and at home is now coordinated appropriately to ensure that each pupil receives an appropriate full-time education.

At the time of the inspection visit in November 2011 a new assessment policy and framework had been produced but was judged to be not fully implemented. A link with national norms was not in place. The action plan stated that the policy would be revised, fully implemented and monitored. All assessments are now measured against National Curriculum level descriptors. New National Curriculum levels are recorded for each pupil each half-term. Individual pupils have targets for each aspect of learning which inform teachers' planning. Individual pupils have a target sheet which is used lesson by lesson to record, using a points system, the extent to which progress is being made. These academic targets are reviewed and amended on a three-weekly basis. Assessment against nationally recognised levels is now at the heart of the school's evaluation of its performance.

At the time the inspection visit the school was judged to be failing to adequately protect the welfare, health and safety of pupils as there were inadequate arrangements for safeguarding. The action plan stated that the safeguarding children policy would be reviewed. Recruitment procedures were to be freshly documented. Updated training in safeguarding for all staff would be provided. The plan has been fully implemented and all members of staff, including the designated person for child protection, have received up-to-date training at the required levels. The school follows the local authority procedures for appointment of staff and school records demonstrate that these procedures are followed. All required checks on the suitability of staff are completed systematically and recorded in a single central register.

At the time of the inspection visit in November 2011 the school's policy to promote good behaviour was judged to be not implemented effectively. The action plan stated that staff training would be provided to review and reinforce the behaviour policy and use and recording of sanctions. The use of the school's reward system would be included in the review and training. Staff training in the implementation of the behaviour policy was completed in January 2012. The incident reporting system has been revised. Records are completed in a consistent manner and sanctions are proportionate to the nature of the incidents. In addition, the implementation of the procedures is monitored by the headteacher to ensure consistency.

At the time of the last inspection visit, the admission register was judged to be not fully up to date. The admission register is now completed in accordance with requirements and is up-to-date.

At the time of the last inspection visit the school's governing body had been disbanded and the school was required to ensure that appropriate checks were carried out for any incoming governors. The school has not re-constituted the governing body and has no plans to do so.

At the time of the last inspection visit in November 2011 security arrangements for the school were judged to be insufficiently rigorous. In addition, the school was required to ensure that arrangements for outside play were safe. Appropriate action

has been taken to improve arrangements for access to the site and security cameras have been installed. A new fence is under construction at the edge of the school field adjacent to the drive. This provides a suitable barrier to prevent pupils entering the drive from the field.

At the time of the last inspection visit the school was judged to not fully meet the regulations regarding washrooms as there were no showers installed. The action plan stated that suitable showers had been installed and this was confirmed during this inspection.

At the time of the last inspection visit it was judged that insufficient written records were kept of all complaints, indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing. The one complaint received by the school has been fully documented. The records were made available to the inspector during this inspection.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

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