

New Forest Small School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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.^{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

The New Forest Small School is an independent day school for boys and girls aged three to 16 years. Currently there are 44 pupils on roll, including 13 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, six of whom receive Government funding. No pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. None of the pupils has a statement of special educational needs. The school was founded in 1994 as a Montessori pre-school. It aims to tailor its curriculum 'to suit the specific needs of each individual child, ensuring that no child is ever academically left behind or socially excluded'. In addition, the school offers 'flexi-schooling', designed to support those parents and carers who also home educate their children. The school is a member of Human Scale Education and has links with Education Otherwise, a home-schooling organisation. The school moved into larger premises within the same area (Lyndhurst) in January 2012. The former premises are no longer used by the school.

Context of the inspection

The school was first inspected by Ofsted in July 2011, when a number of regulations were not met. The school submitted an action plan to address these, which was evaluated in December 2011. The action plan was judged to be inadequate, specifically in respect of issues relating to the new premises and accommodation, plans for which had been submitted together with the action plan. Following a material change inspection visit, where all the requirements for registration were judged likely to be met, the school's new premises and an increase in pupil numbers to 70 were approved by the Department for Education. This is the first monitoring visit to the school to check its progress in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

When the school was inspected in July 2011, there were no schemes of work for physical education or information and communication technology and these subjects were not taught as discrete lessons. The inspection also found that, while there was already scheme of work and timetabled provision for design and technology in Key

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents.

Stages 1 and 2, there was no scheme of work or timetabled provision in this subject for secondary-aged pupils. As a result, pupils throughout Key Stages 1 to 4 did not receive sufficient experience in the technological and physical areas of learning. In its action plan, the school proposed developing and implementing schemes of work for these subjects and providing discrete lessons in physical education and information and communication technology. The school has successfully implemented these proposals. It is also in the process of drawing up schemes and plans for design and technology for pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 in readiness for offering the subject when the design and technology workshop is completed. The findings of this inspection visit indicate that the schemes of work for physical education and information and communication technology meet requirements and are effectively implemented. The school makes use of nearby facilities as well as its own grounds for physical education. Pupils use laptop computers in their classrooms and each room is equipped with multi-media equipment. The curriculum now gives pupils sufficient experience in all the required areas of learning, with the technological area in Key Stages 3 and 4 being realised through the school's provision for information and communication technology.

At the time of the inspection in July 2011, pupils were being assessed every half term but this information was not being used to inform teachers' planning and enable the pupils' differing needs to be met. The school's action plan was judged inadequate because the proposals neither made clear how more-able pupils would be challenged to extend their knowledge and understanding nor how information from assessments would be used to plan this additional work. Evidence from a scrutiny of teachers' planning and lessons observations on this inspection visit indicate that the requirement is now met. A computer-based tracking system provides staff with information about pupils' attainment and progress over time. This is then used to plan lessons to meet the specific needs of different groups and individuals. Expectations of what different pupils should achieve are challenging and frequent opportunities are built into lessons to check the progress they are making, adjusting the level of challenge and the next steps in learning as the result of pupils' responses.

The previous inspection in July 2011 found that the school did not ensure that staff received regular training in child protection matters. In its action plan, the school proposed providing training at regular intervals, as recommended by the Secretary of State. It has subsequently put in place an appropriate system for tracking the training, including updating, undertaken and for ensuring that staff and volunteers new to the school are provided with appropriate training as part of their induction process.

The inspection in July 2011 raised security issues with the school, relating to the previous premises. The school submitted copies of plans of the new premises with its action plan but there was a number of matters that were not clear and were queried by the evaluating inspector. All of these matters were resolved to the satisfaction of the inspector undertaking the material change visit prior to the school's relocation to its new premises and this inspection visit found all the requirements relating to safety and security to be fully implemented and met. The inspection in July 2011 also

highlighted failings relating to the provision of washrooms and accommodation for pupils who might be ill. The requirements relating to the premises and accommodation are now met. In the school's new premises, there are sufficient washroom facilities for staff and visitors, pupils and disabled persons and there is a dedicated room, complete with bed and adjacent to a toilet and washbasin, for pupils who are ill.

At the time of the inspection in July 2011, the school did not provide written annual reports to parents and carers. In its action plan, the school proposed introducing annual reports from June 2012. This inspection visit found that the school has implemented its action plan by developing a reporting template that highlights pupils' progress in each of the areas of learning and provides guidance on their next steps. Parents and carers have been informed through a newsletter that reports are being introduced as planned.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Secondary, primary and nursery		
Date school opened	1999		
Age range of pupil	3–16		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 11	Girls: 9	Total: 20
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 13	Girls: 11	Total: 24
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)	£1,080 to £7,200 depending on age and number of sessions attended		
Address of school	1 Southampton Road, Lyndhurst Hampshire, SO43 7BU		
Telephone number	023 8028 4415		
Email address	newforestschool@live.com		
Headteacher	Nicholas Alp		
Proprietor	Nicholas & Alison Alp		