

# Bishopstrow College

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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DfE registration number	865/ 6041
Unique Reference Number (URN)	135486
URN for social care	SC 367610
Inspection number	398650
Inspection dates	31 May 2012
Reporting inspector	Michael Best
Social care inspector	Wendy Anderson

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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, and under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

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**

Bishopstrow College is an English language college for boys and girls whose first language is not English and who hope to enter a boarding school in the United Kingdom. It is set in just under eight acres of grounds in the village of Bishopstrow near Warminster, Wiltshire. The college was opened in July 2006. It is registered for 40 boarders, aged eight to 17 years. There are currently 61 pupils on roll, all but one of whom are boarders. The college has applied to the Department for Education to increase its roll to 64 pupils.

The college offers intensive English tuition from elementary to advanced level combined with teaching in other subjects. The college is fully accredited by the British Council for the provision of English courses. It operates a four-term year and students attend between one and four terms. Students come from a range of countries and the vast majority have little or no English when admitted. None has a statement of special educational needs. The stated aims of the college are to 'enable students to fulfil their potential' and 'foster the shared values of respect for others and our environment'. The previous inspection of education and boarding was in November 2011.

## **Context of the inspection**

The integrated boarding and education inspection in November 2011 found that a number of regulations and national minimum standards were not met. The college submitted an action plan outlining its proposals to address these shortcomings, which was evaluated and accepted in January 2012, subject to implementation being checked. This integrated monitoring inspection is the first visit to check the college's progress in implementing its action plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents).

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents).

<sup>3</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/contents).

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

### **Education**

The inspection in November 2011 found that provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety was inadequate in both the education and boarding aspects of the college, because recruitment, staff vetting and child protection procedures were not robust enough. The college's arrangements for checking the suitability of staff to work with pupils were inadequate, the required checks not being completed prior to a person's appointment. In addition, the information in the college's single central register, recording the checks made on staff, was incomplete. Some of the information it did contain could not be verified because of gaps in personnel files. A child protection policy existed but it was not implemented effectively because safe recruitment practices were not adopted.

The college drew up an action plan which included specific proposals to address these shortcomings. This inspection visit found that the school has implemented revised recruitment procedures for new staff that meet all requirements of the regulations and the national minimum standards. The college has retrospectively ensured that all the required checks have been made on existing personnel and new staff do not take up their appointments until the required checks have been completed. The headteacher has completed a safer recruitment course and three senior members of staff are booked to attend similar courses later this year. The latest single central record accurately reflects the checks made on new and existing staff. All new staff are given a briefing on safeguarding procedures as part of their induction and records are maintained of the 'update' training provided for existing staff.

The inspection in November 2011 found that, while the college maintained a roll call of its boarders, it did not keep an attendance register for the day pupil on roll, as required. This inspection visit found that the school has successfully implemented its action plan. Attendance registers are now in place and correctly completed. There are registration periods for each class timetabled during the morning and afternoon sessions.

### **Boarding**

The inspection in November 2011 found that the college's statement of boarding principles did not reflect current practice. As proposed in its action plan, the college has updated its statement of boarding principles, which now reflect current practice. The young people's guide to Bishopstrow has also been updated. It is supported by a second edition which takes a pictorial approach for the benefit of those young people who have very limited understanding of English when they first enter the college.

The inspection in November 2011 found that staff sought pupils' views on the day-to-day running of the college, and especially when their individual plans were

developed. The college also distributed questionnaires once a term to seek the views of the boarders on all aspects of college life. Pupils were regularly involved in setting goals for inclusion in their welfare plans. While all this information was discussed with staff, the results of the consultations were not formally collated, as required.

This inspection found that, as proposed in its action plan, the college has developed an appropriate welfare plan for young people, where required, and has enacted arrangements to collate the information from consultations. Welfare plans clearly identify the needs of the young persons, strategies to meet these, targets for those involved in the plans, and arrangements for the review of the plan. Supporting these plans are behaviour profiles which look at the young person's relationships with the college, and behaviours both in the classroom and boarding. These plans are frequently reviewed and the young person is fully involved in the whole process. The result of consultation with young people is now being effectively collated and there is clear evidence of this consultation influencing life at the college. There are regular meetings with young people to discuss the boarding and educational aspects of the College. Part of the role of the pupils' prefect team is to gather the views of their peers and communicate these to the senior management team.

At the last inspection, there were significant failures in the staff recruitment process which could potentially place young people at risk. The college's action plan proposals to address these shortcomings have been implemented. The college has retrospectively reviewed all its staff personnel files and these now contain all the required information. Appointments made since the last inspection have followed correct procedures. The college's recruitment process is enhanced by a thorough induction process for new staff which includes a briefing on safeguarding. A member of the senior staff team has also completed a safer recruitment course and three other senior staff are scheduled to undertake this training later this year.

All the national minimum standards for boarding schools and associated regulations are now met.

## **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>	Language college		
<b>Date school opened</b>	2006 17 years		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	8-17 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 36	Girls: 25	Total: 61
<b>Number of boarders</b>	Boys: 35	Girls: 25	Total: 60
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Number of pupils who are looked after</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£5,915 per term		
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	£8,950 per term		
<b>Address of school</b>	Bishopstrow Road Bishopstrow Warminster Wiltshire BA12 9HU		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01985 219210		
<b>Email address</b>	franh@bishopstrow.com		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Frances Henson		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Frances Henson		