

Flying High

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

Flying High is registered with the Department for Education as an independent special school for boys and girls aged seven to 14 years. On a case-by-case basis, the school seeks approval from the Department for pupils continue their education at the school up to the age of 16 years. The school provides education for pupils who have experienced severe trauma and have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Many have experienced a disrupted education. The school's mission statement is 'to improve outcomes for traumatised children through the delivery of specialist education.'

The school is located on the outskirts of Shrewsbury in Shropshire and is owned by the SACCS group. There are currently 13 full-time pupils on roll aged between eight and 16 years. Eight pupils have a statement of special educational needs. All the pupils are looked after and reside in a number of children's homes which are also owned by the SACCS group. The children's homes are inspected separately by Ofsted.

There have been a number of changes in staffing in the last year, including a new headteacher who was appointed in November 2011.

Context of the inspection

When the school was last inspected in February 2012, a number of regulations were not met. The school drew up and submitted to the Department for Education an action plan to address these shortcomings but this has not been evaluated by Ofsted. This is the first monitoring visit to check the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan proposals.

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

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

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in February 2012 found that the school's curriculum policy was neither comprehensive enough nor was it implemented effectively. In particular, it did not provide an accurate summary of provision, particularly with regard to creative and artistic subjects. In addition, the school did not make all the provision required in pupils' statements of special educational needs or provide appropriate careers education for pupils of secondary school age. The school planned to revise its curriculum policies and to audit and revise the provision made for meeting the requirements in pupils' statements. The school has successfully implemented its action plan proposals. The curriculum policy, together with schemes of work and plans, has been revised and the provision now covers all the required areas of learning. The school has conducted an audit of pupils' statements of special educational needs to identify and make the required provision. In addition, admission procedures have been revised to ensure that pupils' needs are identified prior to their starting at the school and required provision made from the outset. The school has contracted with external specialists to provide suitable careers education and has established a resource base of careers information which pupils can access both at school and at their homes.

When the school was inspected in February 2012, three regulations relating to pupils' welfare, health and safety were not met. The senior member of staff identified as the designated person for child protection had not attended and completed the required higher-level training, while the child protection policy was out of date and did not reflect latest national guidance. The school has successfully implemented its action plan. The designated person has now completed the required training, and the child protection policy has been updated to reflect the latest local and national requirements, and implemented. The inspection also found that, while the school made efforts to prevent and tackle bullying, its anti-bullying policy was not sufficiently comprehensive; it made no mention of cyber-bullying, for example. The school has since updated its policy to reflect current national guidance and anti-bullying awareness is included in the curriculum. The inspection also found that the school's admission register did not contain all of the required information. The school's admission register now meets requirements.

The inspection in February 2012 found a number of shortcomings in the school's single central record of the checks made on the proprietor, staff and volunteers and others who have access to pupils. The school implemented its action plan proposals immediately and now maintains the single central record effectively with information provided by the proprietor's human resources office. The single central record now records all the required information in an appropriate format.

When the school was inspected in February 2012, the information provided for parents, carers and others was incomplete. The school has implemented its action

plan proposals by updating the prospectus to include all the required information about the proprietor and details of all the information available on request. In addition, the school has submitted the required statements of income and expenditure for each pupil to sponsoring local authorities.

The inspection in February 2012 found that the school's written complaints policy did not contain all of the required information. The complaints policy now meets requirements.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Special school for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties		
Date school opened	November 2005		
Age range of pupils	7–14 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 10	Girls: 3	Total: 13
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 8	Girls: 3	Total: 11
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 10	Girls: 3	Total: 13
Annual fees (day pupils)	£225,888 inclusive of education and care		
Address of school	The Oaks Business Park Shepherds Lane Bicton Shrewsbury SY3 8BT		
Telephone number	01743 850840		
Email address	jason.manley@saccs.co.uk		
Headteacher	Jason Manley		
Proprietor	Mary Walsh		