

Hamilton Lodge School and College

Hamilton Lodge School, 7-9 Walpole Road, BRIGHTON, BN2 0LS

Inspection dates

04/02/2013 to 05/02/2013

Context of the inspection

This inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress made the school has made since the last inspection carried out in July 2012. Additionally, the monitoring visit was also carried out following concerns raised by an external agency and to assess whether the safeguarding policies and procedures in place are effective.

Summary of the progress

1) The school ensures that: arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. (NMS 11.1)

Since the last inspection the new Head of Care has reviewed the policies and procedures operated within the school. The policies have also been shared with external professionals from the local safeguarding board and have been endorsed and approved. Additionally, all members of staff, at whatever level, have been involved in child protection training to remind everyone of their obligations and duties in this area.

Staffing arrangements and duties have also been reviewed to ensure that all members of staff are highly aware of each boarder's vulnerability and needs and how to ensure that support is readily available.

All the young people have been reminded who they can approach for help and assistance. Each boarder has a record made of which members of staff they prefer to approach to discuss any matter.

External professionals have been commissioned to review the safeguarding arrangements operated in the school to ensure robust monitoring of their effectiveness.

The school has also engaged representatives from the local police to meet with the pupils and to teach them about protective behaviours. This will be underpinned by the use of an external training organisation which provides guidance to deaf young people about staying safe. Additionally this subject is covered as part of the curriculum delivered in the school. This approach ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to learn about staying safe and protective behaviours.

The systems implemented by the Head of Care have ensured that the boarders welfare and well being is being considered and promoted effectively.

2) The school's procedures are compatible with the local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care (RMFHC) protocols and procedures applicable to the area where the school is located. Where children placed out of authority go missing, the Head of Care follows the local RMFHC protocol and

complies with and makes staff aware of any other processes required by the placing authority. (NMS 15.7)

The school has reviewed the local police policy and its own policy and procedure to ensure that they are consistent and provide staff with clear guidance to follow in the event that a boarder is missing. No boarders have been missing since the last inspection.

3) New staff undertake the Children's Workforce Development Council's induction, beginning within 7 working days of starting their employment and completing training within 6 months. (NMS 19.3)

The school has not recruited any new members of staff for a period of 18 months. However, it has the access to the relevant documentation available to ensure that any new members of staff will be able to access the appropriate training and induction.

4) The school has, and implements, appropriate policies for the care of children who are unwell. These include first aid, care of those with chronic conditions and disabilities, administration of medicines and dealing with medical emergencies. The provision of accommodation for children who are unwell has regard to any requirements set out in regulations relating to school premises. (NMS 3.6)

This recommendation was made in relation to members of staff not recording times which medication had been administered. This has been addressed and records show that all members of staff record the exact times when they have administered medication to boarders.

5) Prescribed medicines are given only to the children to whom they are prescribed. Children allowed to self-medicate are assessed as sufficiently responsible to do so. (NMS 3.7)

This recommendation was made in relation to the school now having an individual risk assessment in place for boarders who self-medicate. This has now been addressed and each boarder who is able to administer their own medication is assessed as to whether they can do this with assistance and whether they are able to keep possession of the medication.

The school has addressed all the recommendations made at the last inspection and has reviewed safeguarding procedures and practice, especially in the boarding areas. This has led to the staff team reporting that they feel they have very clear expectations and standards to adhere to and that practice and the boarders' safety is monitored and scrutinised. There have been no further issues of concern raised by external agencies since the implementation of the reviewed procedures. External auditing of the systems operated in the school combined with training and awareness raising for staff as well as the young people has further consolidated the progress made.

National minimum standards

The school has made good progress and now meets all the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

Inspection team

Paul Taylor

Lead social care inspector

Information about this school

Hamilton Lodge School is a co-educational residential school which caters for young people between the ages of 5 and 18 who are hearing impaired and some have additional specific needs. The main form of communication used in the school is British Sign Language (BSL). Young people board on a weekly basis and are expected to return home for weekends. The school is situated in a residential area. The boarding units are adjacent to the main school site.

School details

Unique reference number	114619
Social care unique reference number	SC050400
DfE registration number	846/7003

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

The inspection was conducted to monitor the progress the school has made since the previous inspection.

Type of school	
Number of boarders on roll	63
Gender of boarders	Mixed
Age range of boarders	11 to 19
Headteacher	Mr Graham Sheppard
Date of previous boarding inspection	04/07/2012
Telephone number	01273 682362
Email address	graham.sheppard@hamiltonlodgeschool.co.uk

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.



You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2013

