

St Mary's Wrestwood Children's Trust

Wrestwood Road, BEXHILL-ON-SEA, East Sussex, TN40 2LU

Inspection dates

06/02/2013 to 06/02/2013

Context of the inspection

This inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan. The last welfare inspection was conducted from 28 May 2012 to 30 May 2012. This is the first progress monitoring visit to the school to follow up progress since the action plan, which was evaluated on 13 September 2012. The action plan related to the two unmet National Minimum Standards at the last inspection. It details that the school is carrying out a series of team teach training in the forthcoming year to ensure that all staff are trained in physical intervention. It also details that the school had purchased a module for SLEUTH which is their online recording system which will be used for recording and reviewing restraints. This was deemed as satisfactory.

Summary of the progress

Following the previous inspection, the arrangements for staff training in physical intervention have been reviewed. A rolling programme of this training is planned and being delivered during staff Inset days. 26% of current staff have now completed the training. 32% are scheduled to access the training between February and July 2013. 42% are scheduled to access the training between September and December 2013. The senior management team within the school are currently planning the implementation of regular refresher training for staff in this area. Furthermore, there has been assistance for staff in managing their responses and feelings arising from working with young people who have emotional difficulties which result in challenging behaviour. There has been training in this area for 80% of residential staff at the October 2012 Inset day. There are plans to roll out this training to all remaining staff. It will be built on by the school's Well-Being Team and cascaded to all other staff. There are plans to use formal supervision, twice daily handovers and team meetings to also support staff's responses to challenging behaviour. Staff are also required to read the school's policies and procedures on managing challenging behaviour during their induction. They are then required to demonstrate their understanding of this policy. The encouraging changes made to staff training and support results in an approach to care which helps to promote positive outcomes for the young people. The action taken by the school and being implemented as described in the action plan meets National Minimum Standard 12.3

A written record is kept of major sanctions and the use of any physical intervention. Records still do not include all of the information detailed in the Residential Special Schools National Minimum Standards. Young people are not encouraged to have their views recorded in the records. Also, there is no record of the effectiveness of the sanction and staff do not sign these records. This results in the behaviour management arrangements not being sufficiently robust in promoting the well-being of all young people. There is however, regular reviews of any instances of the use of

physical intervention restraint which examine trends or issues. This enables staff to reflect and learn in a way that will inform future practice. The action taken by the school and being implemented as described in the action plan does not meet National Minimum Standard 12.6

Some good work has been undertaken to improve young peoples' safety by conducting risk assessments and behaviour management strategies. This has been as a direct response to notifiable incidents which have occurred. This is helpful in promoting the safety and well-being of young people. However, there is a lack of clarity in these written strategies. For example, risk assessments do not detail all action required by staff to reduce known risks. Better written strategies are required in order to fully promote a robust staff response to young people's behaviour. The school does not meet National Minimum Standard 3.12.

National minimum standards

The school must meet the following national minimum standards for residential special schools.

- Where necessary, a child has a clear individual health and welfare plan or similar record, containing relevant health and welfare information provided by parents/carers and recording significant health and welfare needs and issues. This record should be agreed by parents/carers and include: records of developmental checks; health monitoring required by staff; intimate care or bodily functions requiring staff help; and the involvement of a child's parents/carers or significant others in health and welfare issues. (NMS 3.12)
- A written record is kept of major sanctions and the use of any physical intervention. Records may include the information in Appendix 2 (Residential Special Schools National Minimum Standards) - 'use of physical restraint'. The record is made within 24 hours of the sanction being applied and is legible. Children are encouraged to have their views recorded in the records. The school regularly reviews any instances of the use of physical intervention restraint and examines trends or issues to enable staff to reflect and learn in a way that will inform future practice. (NMS 12.6)

Inspection team

Diane Thackrah

Lead social care inspector

Information about this school

St Mary's Wrestwood Children's Trust is a non-maintained, mixed, special school for young people with speech, language and social communication difficulties. Many of the young people have additional areas of need including moderate learning difficulties, physical disability, hearing impairment, autistic spectrum disorder or complex medical difficulties. The Trust follows a waking curriculum whereby activities, academic learning and leisure pursuits all support each young person's learning and development. A multi-disciplinary team of staff provides cohesive care and support across the full 24 hour period, whereby each young person is supported to achieve.

School details

Unique reference number	133653
Social care unique reference number	SC050390
DfE registration number	845/7000

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	106
Gender of boarders	Mixed
Age range of boarders	7 to 19
Headteacher	Dr Sharon Menghini
Date of previous boarding inspection	28/05/2012
Telephone number	01424 730740
Email address	adm@st-marys.bexhill.sch.uk

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