

# Advanced Education - Fitzwalter

## Inspection dates

1 May 2013

## Context of the inspection

- The school received its last inspection of education on 18-19 September 2012. It was judged that the school provided a satisfactory quality of education for its students but several of the regulations for independent schools were not met. The school produced an action plan in November 2012 that was evaluated in January 2013. The actions to be taken by the school were judged to be satisfactory, subject to satisfactory implementation.
- This is the school's first progress monitoring inspection. It was undertaken at the request of the Department for Education to evaluate the progress made by the school in the implementation of its action plan.

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

### Good progress

The inspection in September 2012 judged that teaching ensured that students made adequate progress in their academic learning, but the curriculum was judged to be inadequate. The provision for personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) was inadequate because the school's plans were not fully implemented and they did not reflect the school's aims sufficiently well. Particular schemes of work within the PSHCE provision were not implemented effectively. The school was not providing satisfactorily for a small number of students with a statement of special educational needs with regard to their behavioural difficulties and therefore the requirements of these statements were not fully met. Although teaching was adequate overall, it was not always enabling students to acquire new knowledge and make progress in their personal development. The education provided was not developing students' moral and social skills and insights sufficiently well so that students were not fully prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Furthermore, the school's written policy to promote good behaviour among students was not implemented effectively so that behaviour was inadequate.

The head of education and senior managers developed an action plan with a number of strategies and procedures to remedy the weaknesses identified during the September inspection. The school intended to review its curriculum policy and its overall provision for PSHCE to ensure that the provision matched the school's stated aims. This included a review of its personal development programmes in order to develop and amend much of its provision for PSHCE, plans and schemes of work. The school also planned to review its provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A review of the school's procedures regarding statements of special educational needs was to be carried out to

ensure that students are engaged effectively in meeting the requirements of their statement of special educational needs. The school also planned to review its 'Preparation for Working Life' policy in order to ensure that students were prepared adequately for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The school's behaviour policy including the use of sanctions was also to be reviewed.

As a result of implementing the action plan, the school has remedied all the shortcomings identified at its last inspection.

The school has revised its curriculum policy and its overall provision for PSHCE to match the school's stated aims and ethos. Many revisions and amendments have been made to the school's personal development programmes, including plans and the schemes of work for PSHCE and moral and social development.

The school reviewed its procedures regarding statements of special educational needs. School leaders now check that the provision linked to students' statements meets their needs accurately by regularly monitoring teachers' implementation of plans and the outcomes for students.

The school's 'Preparation for Working Life' policy and other relevant policies are now clearly cross-referenced. There is a systematic and consistent approach to ensure that students are prepared adequately for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Amendments to the school's behaviour policy include much better guidance to staff regarding the need to challenge unacceptable behaviour and to apply sanctions where appropriate. Leaders have issued all of the revised policies and plans to teachers, together with clear guidance regarding their implementation. The school has implemented its action plan effectively. School records indicate that students' attendance, punctuality, behaviour and personal development have improved as a result.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

## Inspection team

Saleem Hussain, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

## Information about this school

- This independent special school was registered in July 2008. The school is owned by Advanced Childcare. It provides for students in the age range of 11 to 18 years with complex needs, including severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- All students live in accommodation owned by the proprietor. All students attending the school in recent years have had a statement of special educational needs. Some students may be on roll at the school for very short periods, whereas others may stay for around two years.
- The aim of the school is to provide students with a personalised, effective curriculum in which work and activities are challenging and result in strong learning outcomes.
- Students are taught by a team of visiting teachers who follow a rota planned by the senior education staff. The school has no particular religious affiliation. It was last inspected on 18-19 September 2012.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135638
<b>Inspection number</b>	421152
<b>DfE registration number</b>	877/6010
This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.	
<b>Type of school</b>	Special school for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
<b>School status</b>	Independent school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	10–18 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	0
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Advanced Childcare
<b>Chair</b>	Riz Khan
<b>Headteacher</b>	Tariq Verpalen
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	18 September 2012
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£34,800

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