

St Michael's School

Harts Lane, Burghclere, Newbury, RG20 9JW

Inspection dates

7 June 2013

Reason for inspection

This unannounced emergency inspection visit for education only was made at the request of the Department of Education to check the school's compliance with the independent school regulations for promoting good behaviour, the prevention of bullying, the implementation of the school's complaints procedures, and the arrangements for ensuring that balanced views are presented in teaching.

Conclusions

The school's policies and procedures for promoting good behaviour and the prevention of bullying reflect the Secretary of State's guidance and are implemented effectively. The school is an orderly community where pupils are respectful of adults and each other. Very occasional serious incidents of misbehaviour are properly recorded and the sanctions handed down are proportionate to the circumstances.

The school's complaints procedures meet requirements and records show that the few complaints received are dealt with in accordance with these procedures.

The school has not addressed the latest regulations regarding the promotion of partisan political views in the school or the requirement to ensure that, where political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, reasonably practicable steps are taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views to pupils.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school requires improvement and must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Regulations'), and associated requirements

Ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject in the school. 5(b)

Ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, reasonably practicable steps have been taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views to pupils:

- while in attendance at the school 5(c)(i)
- while taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school 5(c)(ii)
- in the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of

promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere.

5(c)(iii)

Inspection team

Michael Best, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- St Michael's School is located in Burghclere, near Newbury. The school is registered for pupils aged four to 18 years. It opened in 1991 in order to meet the needs and demands of the followers of the Society of St Pius X. The school is a registered charitable trust and its goals reflect those of the Catholic Society to which it belongs, namely the preservation and continuation of the Catholic faith and tradition. The school aims to instil in its pupils knowledge, virtue and responsibility.
- There are currently 77 boys and girls on roll, of whom 34 boys are boarders. There are five children in Reception in the Early Years Foundation Stage, none of whom are receiving government nursery funding. There are no pupils with statements of special educational needs.
- Accommodation for boarders is in a purpose-built boarding house on the school campus. Fourteen boarders are from overseas. All the overseas pupils speak English as an additional language, with varying degrees of fluency.
- The school was last inspected by Ofsted in October 2011 in an integrated inspection of education and boarding provision. An integrated monitoring inspection visit to check the progress the school had made in implementing its action plan took place in May 2012. This found that the school had made good progress and met all the regulatory requirements applicable at that time.

School details

Unique reference number	116594
Social care unique reference number	SC012016
Inspection number	423279
DfE registration number	850/6062
<p>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.</p>	
Type of school	Independent
School status	Roman Catholic day and boarding school
Age range of pupils	4–18 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	77
Number of part time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	34
Proprietor	Society of St Pius X
Chair	Fr Paul Morgan
Headteacher	Fr Patrick Summers
Date of previous school inspection	19 October 2011
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,165–£6,300
Annual fees (boarders)	£7,815–£7,950
Telephone number	01635 278137
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Email address	fathersummers@gmail.com

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