

# The Harbour Hostel @ Tipner

The Harbour School, Tipner Lane, PORTSMOUTH, PO2 8RA

<b>Inspection dates</b>	19/03/2013 to 21/03/2013	
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
Outcomes for residential pupils	Outstanding	1
Quality of residential provision and care	Outstanding	1
Residential pupils' safety	Good	2
Leadership and management of the residential provision	Outstanding	1

## Summary of key findings

### The residential provision is good because

- Pupils thoroughly enjoy the residential experience and gain tremendous benefits from the time they spend at the hostel. Their personal, social, and educational development is improved significantly; they grow in confidence and develop increased levels of independence.
- Relationships with staff are mutually respectful and remarkably positive. A wide range of activities are available and staff are skilled at positively engaging pupils. Pupils are routinely consulted about matters affecting them and they have been very involved in the refurbishment of the hostel.
- Staff within the hostel work extremely closely and highly effectively with both parents and education staff for the benefit of pupils. Parents have a very high regard for the service and teachers from schools attended by young people are exceedingly positive about the work being done with residential pupils and the results being achieved.
- Pupils feel totally safe within a residential setting where staff apply consistent boundaries. Their behaviour is exemplary and they enjoy positive and constructive relationships with their fellow pupils. The hostel provides a safe, secure and inclusive environment where pupils are treated fairly as individuals.
- The residential provision is being exceedingly well managed with highly experienced and well qualified staff providing an excellent quality of care to the pupils they work with. There is a clear commitment to the continuing development and improvement of the service, with a flexible and creative approach proving extremely beneficial to pupils.
- The school meets the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

### Compliance with the national minimum standards for residential special schools

The school meets the national minimum standards for residential special schools



## Information about this inspection

The inspection took place at short notice and the inspection activities included: meeting with the headteacher, the head of care, all of the care staff team, the designated safeguarding officer, the school cook, and the premises manager. In addition the inspector met with four residential pupils, toured the premises, and spoke with three parents and two external school teachers by telephone. Activities taking place during the inspection were observed, an evening meal was taken with pupils and staff, and a range of records and policy and procedures documents were scrutinised.

## Inspection team

Brian Mcquoid

Lead social care inspector

# **Full report**

## **Information about this school**

The Harbour School is a special school that became fully operational in September 2007. The hostel is the school's residential facility which can accommodate up to ten pupils but which in practice only ever has a maximum of eight in order for them all to have single rooms. The aim of the hostel is to provide a safe and stimulating environment that will support young people in their educational development. While most of the hostel's residents attend the Harbour School, placements can be referred from any Portsmouth school. The hostel is a self-contained unit attached to the school. Staff and young people in the hostel can access many of the school's facilities. The hostel operates with a dedicated residential staff team. The hostel operates on a Monday to Friday basis, with young people returning home each weekend. At the time of the inspection the hostel had been undergoing extensive refurbishment which was not quite completed and so was not providing overnight accommodation for any pupils. Pupils were however attending from after school until nine o'clock in the evening. The school is located just outside of the City of Portsmouth and was last inspected during March 2012.

## **What does the school need to do to improve further?**

- Review the provision enabling residential pupils to acquire life skills and develop their levels of independence.
- Provide information about the residential provision for pupils on the schools website.

## Inspection judgements

### Outcomes for residential pupils

### Outstanding

The outcomes for residential pupils at the school are outstanding. They make remarkable progress in their personal, social, and educational development and greatly enjoy spending time at the hostel. Staff have been a major positive influence in their lives and they have meaningful and mutually respectful relationships with the pupils. Ex-pupils frequently visit and one parent commented extremely positively on how the hostel had helped their child's older siblings. Pupils are very relaxed and comfortable within the hostel, their behaviour improves significantly during their time there and get on really well with one another. One pupil described how the hostel had helped him to become more independent and more confident, and that he was now taking a pride in himself and his appearance. Staff had helped him to improve his behaviour and to re-integrate into a mainstream school where he was now a prefect.

Pupils take advantage of and greatly appreciate the wide range of activities available to them. 'Wonderful' was how one pupil described all that was on offer to them. They feel much valued within the hostel by staff who 'really care', and who actively listen and take their views into account. 'We are treated fairly, everyone the same', said one pupil. The refurbishment of the hostel has seen pupils consulted and actively involved in making decisions. Visiting a furniture store and taking photographs of what they would choose is a typical example of this. Increased attendance and educational attainment are areas where pupils make significant progress. In addition, regular 'social and emotional aspects of learning' assessments within the hostel show significantly positive outcomes for pupils during their time there. Being able to return to mainstream education is a real achievement for any pupil and two described how staff had been highly instrumental in helping them to achieve this. They were also extremely grateful for the support staff had provided them with in relation to college placements and careers information and guidance.

### Quality of residential provision and care

### Outstanding

The quality of residential provision and the care provided are outstanding. Residential pupils enjoy remarkably positive relationships with the staff who look after them and receive tremendous care and support to address their individual needs. There is an excellent process of induction for prospective pupils which is carried out sensitively in conjunction with parents and teachers, and in accordance with the needs of each child. Care staff undertake school and home visits as part of the process and there are opportunities for pupils and their parents to visit and spend time at the hostel. 'I love it here' was the response from one pupil undergoing their induction, 'the staff are really helpful' and 'I'm really looking forward to being able to stay overnight.'

Care staff and academic staff work extremely closely together to successfully support the personal and educational development of residential pupils. 'I can't speak highly enough of the staff', 'we have excellent communication', and 'the hostel is very successful in supporting young people to access education', were some of the positive comments received from a teacher and a head of year at two mainstream schools that pupils attend. Excellent care plans identify individual targets which young people agree with and sign up to. Individual plans are being implemented extremely successfully and are making a real difference to young people's lives. 'Staff really care and have been totally supportive' commented one pupil who felt they may have dropped out of education if they had not attended the hostel.

The hostel staff are extremely good at positively engaging pupils in a wide range of constructive and enjoyable activities, both within the school and in the wider community. There is excellent access to school facilities during the evenings including an information and communication

technology suite, home economics room, hard play area, and a fantastic sports hall facility containing a multi-gym and climbing wall. Shopping, swimming, ice skating and the cinema are some of the community activities enjoyed by pupils in addition to a pool table, art and craft materials, board games, television, and computer games being available within the hostel. Pupils are also encouraged to be as independent as possible by helping with their washing, doing household chores regularly and being able to go shopping and assist with meal preparation. Adopting a more structured approach to the acquisition of life skills could be more beneficial and this is recommended as an area for improvement.

The hostel has undergone a major refurbishment since the previous inspection and although not completely finished at the time of the inspection is clearly going to provide an excellent standard of accommodation. Pupils have been consulted and very actively involved in the process, having chosen the colour of carpets, and been to a well known furniture store to help choose furniture and soft furnishings. Communal areas within the hostel reflect a family type environment as much as possible and are successfully used to encourage and support social interaction. A large and open kitchen/dining area provides an excellent facility for communal meals as well as being able to be used for doing homework or arts and craft. At the time of the inspection residential pupils were engaged in a fantastic creative learning project which was linked with an international school and had seen them visit Portsmouth's historical dockyard, encouraging them to be involved in local culture and arts.

Residential pupils are encouraged to lead healthy lifestyles and enjoy meals which are nutritious and which provide a balanced diet. All pupils regularly have an opportunity to choose the evening meal and are able to go shopping for ingredients and assist with meal preparation. With pupils being resident on a weekly basis their parents retain primary responsibility for meeting their routine health needs. Staff however work closely with health professionals whenever necessary and provide excellent support for individual pupils in relation to both their physical and emotional well-being. Pupils are able to contact their families and friends in private should they wish to and parents have a very high regard for the hostel staff and the success they achieve with their children. 'The best thing that's ever happened', 'excellent communication', and 'much improved behaviour', were just some of the positive comments received from parents.

### **Residential pupils' safety**

**Good**

There is very good provision at the school for ensuring the safety of residential pupils. The hostel provides a safe and secure environment within which pupils are well protected from harm and where they feel totally safe. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of safe working practice and effectively implement all policies and procedures relating to the safety of residential pupils. The behaviour of pupils within the hostel is excellent, they get on extremely well with one another and bullying is not a concern. Staff successfully promote positive behaviour and the use of sanctions is at an extremely low level with pupils feeling they are very fairly treated. There have been no incidents of any pupil being reported missing since the previous inspection and only one incident where physical intervention was used to manage a behavioural matter. This was very well recorded and showed staff had tried a variety of strategies prior to the use of restraint.

The safeguarding of pupils across the school is of paramount importance and is supported by relevant policies and procedures. The deputy headteacher is the school's designated child protection officer with the pastoral support manager assuming the role of deputy. Both have completed the appropriate training specific to their roles and all staff undertake safeguarding training provided by the local authority. There have been no concerns or investigations relating to child protection since the previous inspection. The school works closely with other agencies and has an established link with the local safeguarding board. Safe recruitment procedures are being effectively implemented by the school and provide the necessary safeguards for the welfare of pupils. Health and safety arrangements ensure pupils are provided with a safe and secure

environment within the hostel and the wider school premises. There is good provision for the management of risk associated with both the premises and activities undertaken by pupils, both on site and in the community.

### **Leadership and management of the residential provision Outstanding**

Leadership and management of the residential provision is outstanding. There are well established operational procedures and the hostel runs extremely smoothly on a day-to-day basis, providing a very safe and supportive environment for pupils. Excellent written information about the residential provision is provided for pupils and their parents, with stated aims and objectives that are clearly being very well met. There is currently however no information about the hostel on the school website and this is recommended as an area for improvement. The group of care staff have all worked at the school for a significant period and are wholly committed and enthusiastic about what they do. They work remarkably well as a team and provide an excellent consistency of care for residential pupils. All have extensive experience and are extremely well qualified to meet the needs of the pupils they care for. Support for the professional development of staff is excellent and all have recently attended a special schools conference hosted by Portsmouth City Council.

The school demonstrates a clear and continuing commitment to developing and improving the service it provides for residential pupils. All four of the recommendations from the previous inspection have been satisfactorily addressed and there have been significant additional improvements made. These include a total refurbishment of the residential accommodation with new central heating installed, new carpets, new toilets and bathrooms, new furniture and soft furnishings, and redecoration throughout. The hostel has been closed for overnight stays while work was taking place but at the time of the inspection was providing support and activities for pupils from after school until nine in the evening. It is anticipated the hostel will re-open for overnight stays after the Easter holiday period. Seeking the views of pupils is an integral aspect of how the hostel operates and there has been significant input from them in relation to the refurbishment. Relationships with parents are exceptionally positive.

Excellent communication between care and education staff provides for close and effective monitoring of individual pupils, and there are rigorous monitoring visits undertaken regularly and unannounced by a school governor. Links between everyday practice in the hostel and the governing body are well established with on-going lines of communication and detailed annual reports being provided by the care staff team. Rigorous self evaluation processes inform the overall school development plan with a specific hostel development plan running alongside and being subject to regular review. The school has high aspirations for all of its pupils and these are shared by the hostel with clearly identified targets linked to pupil attendance and attainment. Care planning addresses the individual and diverse needs of each pupil, there is equality of opportunity and no evidence of any discrimination of any kind. Pupil records are well maintained and up to date policies and procedures support and promote good practice across the school.

## What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	A school which provides an exceptional quality of care and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
Grade 2	Good	A school which provides a high quality of care that exceeds minimum requirements.
Grade 3	Adequate	A school which meets minimum requirements but needs to improve the quality of care it provides.
Grade 4	Inadequate	A school where minimum requirements are not met and the quality of care has serious weaknesses.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135308
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	SC012026
<b>DfE registration number</b>	851/7472

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.

<b>Type of school</b>	
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	
<b>Gender of boarders</b>	
<b>Age range of boarders</b>	
<b>Headteacher</b>	Ms Sally Garrett
<b>Date of previous boarding inspection</b>	06/03/2012
<b>Telephone number</b>	023 9266 5664
<b>Email address</b>	sally.garrett@thsportsmouth.org

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