

# Bellerbys College

Bellerbys College Brighton and Hove, 1 Billinton Way, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 4LF

<b>Inspection dates</b>	22/03/2013	
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
Outcomes for boarders	Good	2
Quality of boarding provision and care	Good	2
Boarders' safety	Good	2
Leadership and management of boarding	Good	2

## Summary of key findings

### The boarding provision is good because

- The college is effectively managed to ensure students achieve academically and enjoy the boarding experience; whether this is on site or with host families. The experience of boarding clearly enhances students personal, social, cultural and educational development.
- The college's arrangements for ensuring boarders in their care are safe and protected from harm are good. Significant improvements since the last inspection were seen especially in areas such as child protection and recruitment procedures.
- Students from a wide variety of countries learn to appreciate their own and others cultures and to live and work in harmony and tolerance of each other. There is excellent recognition of the diverse needs of students, culturally and socially so each student can develop and achieve well.
- The quality of the boarding provision and care of students is good, with much improved health care arrangements and good to excellent accommodation provision. The student services department provides very good support and guidance to students.
- The health and safety of students is given a high priority with very good systems and checks in place to ensure maximum protection. Security measures are excellent.

### Compliance with the national minimum standards for boarding schools

The school meets the national minimum standards for boarding schools

## Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out with three hours notice given to the college. The inspectors visited the on site residential accommodation and a sample of host family houses in the community. Plus a number of host families were contacted by phone for feedback about the service they receive from the college. Inspectors spoke with students of all ages and made themselves available if any student wanted to speak individually to the inspectors; none did. Inspectors spoke with key staff who have responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding, student services, health and safety, catering, sports and social events, medical provision, language counselling, and recruitment of staff. Senior management who have overall responsibility for students and the accommodation were also interviewed; such as the Principal and Director of Student Services. College policies and protocols were scrutinised. No information was gathered from Parent View as it showed no entries.

## Inspection team

Liz Driver

Lead social care inspector

Janet Hunnam

Social care inspector

# Full report

## Information about this school

Bellerbys College is an independent international education provider with four colleges located around the country. Although open to British students, the college's primary aim is to provide education for international students and to prepare them for admission into British universities. It is located in the centre of Brighton, East Sussex. The boarding accommodation is provided in a purpose built site plus students are also accommodated within host families recruited from within Brighton and neighbouring areas.

The college admits students from the age 14 years upwards and at the time of inspection there were approximately 926 students of whom 410 are residential.

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

- Ensure all telephone verifications of references are recorded to enhance recruitment procedures.
- Consider providing child protection and safeguarding training to host families.
- Improve the recording of contact had with students about their experiences of host families and the accommodation provided by host families.
- Consider developing further the function of the student council.

## Inspection judgements

### Outcomes for boarders

**Good**

Outcomes for students are good. Students learn and live in a purpose built provision located on one site and provides a positive experience for them to develop socially and educationally. Relationships between staff and students are both professional and appropriate. As a result students are happy at the college and experience excellent multi cultural integration due to the numerous nationalities at the college. This is a real strength of the college and one that students benefit greatly from. Students also confirm this is a real strength of the college with many positive comments heard of during this inspection.

Students receive much support from staff at the college in overcoming any difficulties and suitably qualified professionals are easily accessible to assist in this. Students develop good social skills and learn to compromise and be tolerant of others from different backgrounds and cultures. They make good progress in developing independent life skills for their future lives. A very high number go onto University.

Students make a positive contribution to the residential and wider community and enjoy the wealth of social and sport activities on offer. Students confirm they enjoy the wide range of activities and social events on offer. Students receive much improved health care which is overseen by a suitably qualified nurse, with students feedback very positive about the care they receive when ill.

Students from a wide variety of countries learn to appreciate their own and others cultures and to live and work in harmony and tolerance of each other. This is supported by all students living close by one another in the colleges own accommodation as well as through activities such as celebrations of cultures organised or encouraged by the college social time.

### Quality of boarding provision and care

**Good**

The quality of the boarding provision and care of students is good, with much improvement seen since the last inspection carried out in 2009.

The on site boarding accommodation is excellent, very safe and very well maintained with robust policies in place to support this. Those students who choose to live with host families are provided with very suitable accommodation of a good standard.

Students receive an organised and very good standard of induction when they first arrive at the college; so they know what they can expect and what is expected of them. They are also informed of British culture which in some aspects can be different to their own. Students individual needs are met with very good pastoral support and support from residential supervisors. The college provides good resources to support students in both their academic and personal progress covering a 24 hour curriculum. This is further enhanced as a result of residential and academic staff working closely together.

Student health arrangements have been much improved since the last inspection with a very suitably qualified and experienced nurse located on site. Access to a General Practitioner is easy and a walk in clinic is also easily accessible close to the college. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and are suitably risk assessed if they need to administer their own medication. Residential supervisors are suitably trained in areas relating to health needs such as medication administration and first aid. All students are treated fairly and without discrimination and all have the same access to health related professionals.

The food provision is of very good quality with a canteen style restaurant that is bright and very clean. The quality of the food is excellent with good variety and good quantity that meets student's dietary needs. All foods are clearly labelled to meet the needs of students with allergies, cultural needs and special diets. Due to the numbers of different cultures and nationalities the catering department do well in providing food to meet all dietary needs whilst providing students with the opportunity to experience new foods. In general students were complimentary about the food provision although it is acknowledge the difficulties the catering department has in pleasing so many students from different cultures. Overall they do a very good job in meeting those needs. Students confirm the food provision they receive in host family accommodation is good.

There are suitable opportunities for students to voice their views and opinions about areas that affect them such as; food, accommodation, social and sport events. The student council plays an active part in ensuring students can feed back their views although students say its current format is limited. Students make an increasing contribution both to the college community and wider community through voluntary work in local schools and after school clubs, and work experience as well as charitable fundraising.

Since the last inspection the college has employed a sports and social co-ordinator who provides a wealth of opportunities for students to participate in at a local school at weekends and evenings and social events both at the college and off site. Individual preferences are also catered for ensuring fair and equal access for all students.

The college provides very suitable arrangements for students to contact their families and friends with a designated computer room they can access, additionally the vast majority of students have mobile phones they can use outside of lesson time.

## **Boarders' safety**

**Good**

The college's arrangements for ensuring boarders in their care are safe and protected from harm are good.

Recruitment procedures for all staff and host families are robust with designated staff having completed safer recruitment training. Recruitment records are organised and well maintained however telephone verifications of references is not recorded. Vetting of visitors is extremely robust and highly effective ensuring high standard of protection for students and staff. High standard security measures are in place covering both day and night time. Students report they feel safe and protected.

Child protection and safeguarding measures have improved significantly since the last inspection with all staff having completed child protection training. A designated member of staff, suitably trained carries responsibility for liaising with agencies on child protection or safeguarding matters and making referrals if necessary. The college's policies and procedures are in accordance with local protocols and are made accessible to staff. Students confirm they feel safe and secure. Information is provided to host families which covers aspects of child protection however an area for further development could be to provide specific training for host families to access. The college gives a high priority to student safety and protection.

Students conduct is very good; students reporting very low number of bullying incidents. Students confirm any such incidents are acted on swiftly and sensitively. The college has a very clear policy on bullying which all staff and students are well informed of. The college has recently focused on cyber bullying and again very low numbers of incidents have been brought to the college's attention. Staff are clear and committed to ensuring any such incidents are acted on quickly. Students confirm they feel comfortable in reporting any concerns about bullying and named numerous staff they could talk to. As a result students can learn in safety without fear.

Since the last inspection the college has improved its missing person policy and procedures. Clear action for staff to take if a student goes missing is effective and well known by all staff. Host families are provided with clear information and procedures to follow if their student is missing with emergency contact numbers supplied for out of college hours and weekends. The vast majority of incidents of missing students are when they decide to stay overnight with relatives or friends. The college works hard to ensure students inform them if they make such decisions.

The health and safety procedures operated at the college are robust and well organised. Senior managers consider potential hazards and run suitable checks with very good records kept. All areas relating to fire prevention are sound with fire drills taking place at regular intervals to ensure students know what action to take if a fire occurred. Good records are kept of fire drills with any identified action needed recorded and acted on. Overall the building is safe as a result of robust procedures relating to health and safety.

## **Leadership and management of boarding**

**Good**

The leadership and management of the boarding provision is very good. It is effective in its style and delivery which results in improved outcomes for students.

The aims of the college are clear and they are met. A prospectus, information packs and the college's website provide students, parents, carers and host families with suitable information about how the college operates. The college staff invest much time in building links with parents and carers and consistently maintain good lines of communication despite the difficulties of many parents living abroad.

The residential provision is an integrated part of the overall function of the college. Staffing levels have been addressed since the last inspection and the college now provides suitable levels of supervisory staff who are suitably trained and experienced. Supervisors receive good support and regular appraisals of their work.

All required policies and procedures are in place and effectively implemented. As a result of being consistently applied students can thrive in a safe community. All records are securely stored in accordance with data protection.

There is a clear and succinct complaints policy which suitably meets the needs of parents and carers, most of whom have English as an additional language. The number of complaints handled is extremely low. Students confirmed that all complaints are taken seriously and acted on.

The college has suitable development plans that includes future accommodation options. The current principal is leaving at the end of the summer term 2013 with a replacement principal already recruited.

Monitoring of the college's practices is robust with senior management taking responsibility for ensuring consistency in staff practices.

The host family provision is carefully monitored with good records kept. Host families are happy with the service they receive and contact they have with the college. The good quality of host family accommodation together with the processes around recruiting, information sharing and support ensures students are placed in families they are safe with and are therefore enjoy the host family experience. Staff regularly speak with students about their experiences of host families however this is not as well recorded as it could be.

There is excellent recognition of the diverse needs of students, culturally and socially so each student can develop and achieve well. Individual programme managers play a vital role in

ensuring students experience a smooth passage through the college and onto further education placements.

## 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>	114664
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	SC050149
<b>DfE registration number</b>	846/6009

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 boarding 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>	Mr N Addison
<b>Date of previous boarding inspection</b>	01/06/2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	01273 339200
<b>Email address</b>	naddison@studygroup.com

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