

# Lewes New School

Talbot Terrace, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DS

## Inspection dates

2 October 2013

## Context of the inspection

- This unannounced progress monitoring 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 school's last full inspection was on 5–6 October 2010.
- At the request of the Department for Education, an emergency inspection was carried out on 5 March 2013. During this inspection, it was found that the school failed to meet 17 regulations for independent schools. Most of the failed regulations were in relation to the welfare, health and safety of pupils, the suitability of staff to work with children, the provision for accommodating pupils who are unwell, the information provided for parents and the complaints procedures.
- The school submitted an action plan which was evaluated in June 2013. The action plan was judged to be satisfactory, subject to satisfactory implementation, which this inspection has checked.
- This is the first visit to the school to follow up its progress towards achieving its action plan.

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

### Good progress

The March 2013 inspection found that there was no consistent whole-school approach to the management of pupils' behaviour. Since that time, the school has devised and agreed a new behaviour policy, which includes the anti-bullying policy. These policies, which promote positive relationships in line with the school's philosophy, now comply with the latest guidance from the Department for Education. The aims and the procedures for addressing behaviour issues and tackling bullying are clearly set out. The headteacher expects high standards of behaviour and adults are good role models within the school. Class teachers and the headteacher maintain records of incidents that occur. During the inspection, parents and carers reported that they generally find behaviour to be good and welcome the approach of discussions with adults and pupils that promotes respect and responsibility. As one staff member put it: 'Every child has a voice and we listen.' Although pupils spoken to during the inspection agreed that behaviour is usually good, they find that sometimes low-level disruption through 'chattering' during whole-class circle times can waste time and interrupt the flow of learning. Staff are mainly positive about the improvement in behaviour since the new policy has been implemented, but occasionally, when the policy is not consistently applied by all staff, some pupils' behaviour deteriorates. The behaviour observed throughout the inspection in lessons and during playtimes was good. Relationships are positive and pupils learn and play well together. Pupils' behaviour in lessons is calm, relaxed and respectful. Staff, parents and carers, and pupils agree that bullying is rare, but when it does occur, adults work alongside those involved and try to resolve the issues through mutual respect and discussion. Recent training for all staff in tackling bullying and recording incidents has been valued by staff. Regulations are now met.

There have been a number of improvements in the school's safeguarding arrangements. A new policy has been devised and agreed. All staff have recently received up-to-date child protection training and the training for the designated child protection officer (DCPO) is now at the required higher level and is also up-to-date. Omissions in the admission register have been rectified and the next educational destinations of pupils are now recorded as required. Mandatory checks on the suitability of members of the proprietorial body have been completed and are recorded in the single central record. In addition, during the inspection, further omissions identified on the register in relation to the right of staff, governors and members of the proprietorial body to work in the United Kingdom were also rectified, including whether overseas criminal record checks are required. The single central register now meets requirements. Regulations are now met.

The accommodation for the medical examination of pupils and the provision for pupils who are ill or injured are now in place. A dedicated room has been refurbished and all the necessary equipment to care for sick and injured pupils is in place. Regulations are now met.

The school complaints policy and procedure have been completely rewritten. All the omissions and errors have been rectified and the complaints policy meets the standard required by the Department for Education. There have been no complaints recently. Regulations are now met.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school has made good progress and now meets all The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

## Inspection team

Ann Henderson, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- The Lewes New School, situated in Lewes, Sussex, is a charitable trust school providing co-educational day education for pupils aged from three to 11 years of age. It was founded in 2000 by a group of parents and teachers and does not promote any particular religious practice.
- The school is accommodated in an old Victorian school building that has been successfully adapted to provide good-sized classrooms and working areas. Overall, the school is well maintained, adequately decorated and well lit. A suitable hall is used for dining, assemblies, physical education and whole-school activities.
- The school's aim is to provide a curriculum that is formed by responding to pupils' inquisitive questions rather than delivering predetermined subjects.
- The school was registered as an independent school in 2002. At present, the school has 73 pupils, 18 of whom are children who receive nursery education funding and attend part time in the Early Years Foundation Stage Nursery class. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs.
- The school's last full inspection by Ofsted was in October 2010, when the education provided was judged to be good. There were three regulatory failures at that time.
- An emergency inspection was carried out on 5 March 2013. At the time of that inspection, 17 regulatory failures were identified.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	132729
<b>Inspection number</b>	428276
<b>DfE registration number</b>	845/6047
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>	Primary
<b>School status</b>	Independent day school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	73
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	18
<b>Proprietor</b>	Lewes New School Limited
<b>Chair</b>	Anton Simanowitz
<b>Headteacher</b>	Linda Morris
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	5 March 2013
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£6,750
<b>Telephone number</b>	01273 477074
<b>Fax number</b>	01273 483054
<b>Email address</b>	office@lewesnewschool.co.uk

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