

Bramdean School

Richmond Lodge, Homefield Road, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon. EX1 2QR.

Inspection date

24 September 2013

Reason for inspection

A strategy meeting held by the local authority's Child Protection Strategy group resulted in a request from the Department for Education for an emergency inspection. The purpose of this inspection was to inspect the school's procedures for checking that staff are suitable to work with children, its recruitment practice, and the school's safeguarding procedures.

Conclusions

The school's current policy for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare does not reflect government guidance, as required by independent school standards ('the regulations'). Therefore, regulatory requirements are not met. The policy gives incorrect guidance for dealing with allegations against staff, and gives confused information about working with external agencies. This policy is contained in the staff handbook which is used to inform new staff of school procedures as part of their induction. This means staff have inaccurate information which may hinder the correct action from being taken. The headteacher discusses policies and procedures with staff when they start working at the school. She demonstrates sufficient knowledge of child protection procedures to follow the correct procedures, despite the shortcomings of the school's written policy. The headteacher acts as the main designated officer, although she is not listed on the school's policy as such, and oversees all safeguarding concerns and protocols.

Most staff, including the designated officers, received level one child protection training in 2011. Some staff were not at the school when this training was done and so have yet to complete it. The school plans to provide another training session in the near future to refresh and train all staff. However, regulations are not met because the designated officers for safeguarding have not done any advanced child protection training, which is a requirement of their role.

The school's single central record meets regulations. All staff are vetted through a criminal records check, and other checks are recorded in line with regulations. The school's recruitment procedures have adequate regard to government guidance. Professional written references are held for most staff and this reflects good recruitment practice. Some staff were appointed following telephone discussions with referees, of which no written record was made. These discussions provide an adequate assessment of a prospective employee, although it is difficult for the school to demonstrate this with no written record. The school has clear procedures in place to monitor pupils' well-being. No staff work with pupils on an individual basis, and all teaching rooms in the school have glass-panelled

doors so observation can take place. Pupils are educated about personal and internet safety as part of their curriculum studies, and this is reinforced through information provided in their school 'planner' diaries. The school has recently devised a written policy on internet use for staff that is extremely detailed and clearly prohibits their contact with pupils on private websites or social media.

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.

Welfare, health and safety

- Written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils must reflect government guidance so that all staff know the correct procedures. The designated officer(s) for safeguarding at the school must undertake training to a standard set by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Paragraph 7

Inspection team

Susan Mann, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Flora Bean

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- Bramdean School is a non-selective independent coeducational school in Exeter. It provides education for pupils aged from three to 18 years. There are currently 135 pupils on roll. The school's last inspection was in September 2012.
- The large majority of pupils are of White British heritage. A few pupils speak English as an additional language. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs.
- The school was established in 1901. It aims to provide pupils with 'a well-rounded education where teamwork, cooperation, self-discipline and good manners are observed alongside the teaching of academic subjects by highly qualified staff'.

School details

Unique reference number	113562
Inspection number	428129
DfE registration number	878/6001
<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	Preparatory and senior day school
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	3–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	135
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Miss Diane Stoneman and Mr Anthony Connet
Chair	Not applicable
Headteacher	Miss Diane Stoneman
Date of previous school inspection	19–20 September 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£8,160 –£9,720
Telephone number	01392 273387
Email address	info@bramdeanschool.com

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