

Kisimul School (Woodstock House)

Woodstock House, Woodstock Lane North, Long Ditton, KT6 5HN

Inspection dates

17 October 2013

Reason for inspection

A follow up visit was taken in June to the residential children's home in response to survey information and this visit was viewed as part of the full inspection that started in May 2013. The findings were included in the full inspection report for the children's home conducted in May 2013. Following an anonymous complaint received by Ofsted concerning low staff/student ratios resulting in staff receiving injuries, the Department for Education requested this emergency inspection of the educational provision. The focus of this inspection was to check staffing levels and to evaluate the quality of education provided by the school.

Conclusions

The inspector observed the quality of teaching by conducting a learning walk in each of the four middle school classes, observed pupils during break time and completed a total of four separate lesson observations: two of students in post-16 classes and the two classes of mixed-aged Key Stage 3 and 4 students. Compliance with all regulations relating to curriculum, teaching and assessment was checked. The inspector examined planning and assessment records for four individual students, the school's monitoring of the quality of teaching, daily handover records of information shared between residential and school staff, physical restraint logs and the recording of incidents involving students that have resulted in injuries to staff. The quality of education has declined since the last inspection and is currently adequate.

The school's curriculum provision is adequate. Reduced staffing levels since the start of term have resulted in disruption to students' timetables and delayed plans to instigate curriculum enrichment activities. In response to the previous inspection the school has made appropriate changes to extend students' lunchtime to further develop their social and communication skills. The school's plan to improve the curriculum by providing a range of enrichment opportunities to run alongside changes to lunchtime routines has not yet been fully embedded. This is because music and information and communication technology subject specialist teachers are sometimes covering for absent staff. In other classes, staff are called away to help support students with challenging behaviour. For example, in a post-16 class a planned activity for students to work with staff to maintain the garden and grounds was changed at short notice. The class teacher responded flexibly and quickly set up an art lesson where students made satisfactory progress.

Teaching and assessment are adequate and require improvement to be good. While good teaching and learning are evident, the majority of teaching is adequate. In a number of lessons, staff are withdrawn so that staffing levels fall below the 1:1 ratio described on the school's website. For example, in a lesson, two members of staff worked with three students to provide different individual activities but could not provide the 1:1 support

required to ensure students were helped to extend their concentration, fully develop their communication skills and make good progress. Staff report that over the last few weeks a reduced level of staffing is a regular occurrence. As a result, students' achievement is adequate because they are not regularly receiving the required highly differentiated, good quality teaching.

In all lessons staff deal calmly with students and show a consistent approach to managing challenging behaviour. The school places a strong emphasis on developing students' personal and social skills and staff provide good levels of care and personal attention. Playtimes are resourced with a wide range of stimulating and accessible apparatus and are well supervised so that students make good progress in their physical development. Residential staff attend lessons and use their knowledge of students' behaviour outside school hours well to provide good personal and social support. Comprehensive daily 'handover logs' share information about each student's behaviour and attitudes and ensure a common approach across the day. The school has improved the recording of incidents involving physical intervention in response to the findings of the previous inspection. The consistent approach to behaviour management shown by all staff is a significant factor in helping to ensure that students continue to make good progress in their personal development and in managing their behaviour.

The school meets all the regulations for independent schools.

Inspection team

Mark Lindfield, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Kisimul School (Woodstock House) is an independent day special school for students aged from eight to 19 years of age.
- There are 44 students on roll, 27 of whom are beyond the age of 16 years. There are no primary-aged pupils currently on roll.
- All of the 33 boys and 11 girls have severe learning difficulties and very challenging behaviour, and a large majority also have autism. All students have a statement of special educational needs.
- The school is owned by the Kisimul Group Limited, a company that also runs and manages care provision for young adults, SC367623.
- The last inspection of the school's education provision was in November 2012. The last social care inspection was in May 2013.

School details

Unique reference number	135577
Inspection number	429047
DfE registration number	936/6593
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.	
Type of school	Special
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	8–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	44
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Kisimul Group Limited
Chair	Danny Carter
Headteacher	Chris Owen
Date of previous school inspection	20–21 November 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£80,000 – £85,000
Telephone number	020 8335 2570
Email address	enquiries@kisimul.co.uk

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