

Black Country Wheels

Units 3 & 4, Gainsborough Trading Estate, Rufford Road, Stourbridge, DY9 7ND

Inspection dates

22 October 2013

Context of the inspection

This 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 last inspection was on 2 October 2012. A material change inspection visit was made on 7 June 2013 in response to the school's application to increase the number of students on roll and to move to new premises. That visit found that the school did not meet a small number of regulations. The action plan submitted by the school to remedy the situation was accepted in August 2013.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

At the time of the material change inspection visit in June 2013, the school was clearly focused on developing and documenting the curriculum for new subjects to be taught. There was, however, too little actual written planning in place for these new subjects. The school's planned actions to remedy the situation have resulted in a curriculum policy which includes all aspects of the taught curriculum. Suitable schemes of work for all subjects are now in place, which link into Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN) courses and qualifications. The school is developing further schemes of work to enable students to study towards GCSE qualifications in English and mathematics.

Staff at the school know students very well and they use this information to provide a relevant and appropriate curriculum. For example, more able students are now following a GSCE route for English and mathematics.

At the time of the material change visit, the school had yet to engage suitably qualified staff to teach new subjects in the planned curriculum. Staff are now suitably trained and qualified to teach all the subjects in the extended curriculum. Students in their turn also demonstrate good subject knowledge. For example, they confidently discussed how to render a wall. The extended curriculum meets the needs of the learners well and this supports their good progress. Lessons are monitored by the headteacher to gain a view of the quality of teaching.

The material change visit of June 2013 found that the school did not have all the resources in place to teach the new subjects it had introduced into the curriculum. Significant investment has since been made to ensure all the required equipment is in place. The school has created a new computer suite. Ten new computers have been purchased and all students access this facility on a regular basis. Interactive whiteboards have been purchased which are used for the teaching of functional skills, while new textbooks now support the delivery of the curriculum well. A national building company sponsors the school by supplying tools and materials. This equipment provides a valuable resource to

aid students' learning. Students are knowledgeable about health and safety procedures when using the new machinery and tools.

The visit of June 2013 found that assessment systems were not all in place for the new subjects to be taught. Good progress has since been made on developing the school's assessment systems. Students receive daily feedback on their achievements and assessment information is readily accessible to inform staff of students' strengths and weaknesses. Formal indicators of students' attainment, for example reading ages, are regularly gathered and shared with students, parents and carers. Where students have a dual school placement, the school regularly shares assessment information with staff at the other school. As a result of these developments, the regulations are now met.

At the time of the material change inspection visit, Black Country Wheels intended to rent a workshop to a local college. This would have involved potential contact by the school students with post-16 college students, without the required safeguarding checks being in place. Links with the college have now ceased and, as a result, these safeguarding procedures are no longer required. Students report that they feel safe at all times. They told the inspector they are treated with respect by all staff and given responsibilities. They are taught well about risks and regular health and safety checks are carried out.

At the time of the visit of June 2013, safety checks had not been carried out on lifting equipment in the workshop as facilities such as hydraulic ramps and portable lifting equipment were still being installed. The school was aware that safety certification needed to be issued once all the equipment was fitted. The required checks have now been carried out and certificated, so that requirements are met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

Inspection team

Jane Millward, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Black Country Wheels has been providing alternative education for students with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties in Dudley since 1999. It was registered as an independent school in October 2011. The school's last full inspection was in October 2012 when it was judged to be providing a satisfactory quality of education for its students.
- The school has recently moved from the Coneygre Trading Estate in Tipton to its current location in Stourbridge.
- The school is registered to take up to 100 students. Currently there are 63 students, of whom 45 are part time. All students have been permanently excluded from mainstream schools or are at risk of exclusion. In all cases their previous education has been significantly disrupted.
- The vast majority of students are from white British backgrounds.
- The school aims for every student to receive a positive experience in their final school years. It provides a curriculum model based upon personal development and employability skills, providing opportunities for students to be self-aware and to learn life skills that will manage their work, lives and relationships.

School details

Unique reference number	137571
Inspection number	429342
DfE registration number	332/6007
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	Day school for students with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	14–16 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	63
Number of part-time pupils	45
Proprietor	Jan Lear
Headteacher	Jan Lear
Date of previous school inspection	7 June 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£9,600
Telephone number	0121 522 3717
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