

Wathen Grange School

Church Walk, Mancetter, Atherstone, CV9 1PZ

Inspection dates

13 November 2013

Context of the inspection

When the school was inspected in March 2012 all but two of the regulations were met. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals to address these, which was evaluated and accepted in October 2012. In March 2013 an unannounced emergency inspection was made to the school at the request of the Department for Education in response to two anonymous complaints received in November 2011 and December 2012. The complaints referred to the quality of students' welfare, safeguarding procedures and their implementation, and recruitment procedures and recording. Two regulations were identified as not being met. The school submitted an action plan indicating how it would address these, which was accepted in May 2013. This is the first monitoring visit to check the progress made by the school in implementing its action plans.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

The inspection of March 2012 found that science was not taught as a discrete subject. Students were only provided with incidental experiences of science which did not represent a planned programme of learning. Science is now timetabled for all pupils on a weekly basis. A succession of science teachers have been recruited so that students have been taught science on a regular basis for most of the last academic year. Staffing difficulties mean that this was not the case at the end of the last term or so far this term. A school-specific scheme for science has not been developed. Each time a new teacher is recruited they decide what aspects of science are to be taught. This does not result in a coherent, planned programme of learning which develops scientific skills and understanding in a systematic way. There has been some improvement in the provision of science resources but overall these remain in need of further improvement.

The emergency inspection in March 2013 found that arrangements to safeguard and promote students' welfare did not meet regulatory requirements. The school's systems to recruit staff, analyse and evaluate information from and about applications lacked rigour. The school's single central register did not include checks made on supply staff. Child protection records were disorganised and the policy had not been updated to take account of the latest guidance. The weaknesses have been rectified and the school now meets all the requirements. The school has compiled a single register providing details of all the required checks on staff, including those recruited through an agency. There are now robust procedures for the recruitment and appointment of staff. The school is aware of all the safeguarding requirements. The policy for safeguarding has been reviewed and shared with all staff, including those recruited through an agency.

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

Produce appropriate plans and schemes of work for science, and implement them effectively. paragraph 2(1)

Inspection team

Amraz Ali, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Wathen Grange School offers day provision for a maximum of 40 students aged 11 to 16 years with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.
- The school previously operated from two sites but now only operates on one site.
- The school opened in Leamington Spa in September 2000 and expanded to open this second site, in Mancetter, in September 2007. The original building in Leamington Spa closed in June 2012.
- There are currently nine students; all are White British boys, aged 11 to 16 years.
- Most of the current students come from Solihull and Leicestershire local authorities and all students have statements of special educational needs.
- The school aims to prepare its students for social challenges, economic independence and the demands of adulthood. It also aims to offer a curriculum that broadly follows the National Curriculum while incorporating an appropriate range of knowledge, skills and experiences beyond the classroom.
- The school does not have a headteacher but there is a head of education who works full-time at this site.

School details

Unique reference number	134614
Inspection number	427608
DfE registration number	937/6104
<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	Independent day school
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	11–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	9
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Complete Care Warks Ltd
Headteacher	Steve Reynolds
Date of previous school inspection	20–21 March 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£45,000
Telephone number	01827 714454
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