

# Pace Education Ltd

Black Horse House, 3 Porthill Bank, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, ST5 0LS

## Inspection dates

17 January 2014

## 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. This is the first progress monitoring inspection since the school's last full inspection on 17 November 2011. The action plan submitted by the school to remedy the school's failure to meet a small number of regulations was accepted in February 2013.

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

### Good progress

The inspection of November 2011 found that the school's admission register did not meet all requirements. The school's action plan indicated that parent contact details and the name of the pupils' previous school would be added to the admission register. As a result of implementing this action, the admission register now includes all the required information. The admission register is kept electronically and a printout is made at least once a year. As a result of these additions, the regulation is now met.

At the time of the full inspection in November the school did not comply with all the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) in that the school did not have a three-year accessibility plan in place. The school's action plan proposed that an accessibility plan would be devised. The school now has a three-year (2013-2016) accessibility plan in place. This plan is reviewed on an on-going basis by the proprietors and informs the review of the school development plan and the special educational needs, equal opportunities and curriculum policies. The plan focuses on three main areas which are: increasing the extent to which disabled students can participate in the school curriculum; improving the school environment to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services; and improving the delivery of information to disabled pupils and their parents.

The inspection in November 2011 found that there were insufficient washrooms for staff and visitors, and that showering facilities were not available on site. The school's action plan proposed that an additional disabled toilet would be built on the ground floor. The action plan also proposed to ensure that all pupils would have access to shower facilities during off-site sports activities. Pupils only take part in sports activities at purpose-built sports facilities. The extension containing the disabled toilet has been completed. This facility can be accessed from indoors and outdoors via a ramp. The facility meets building and accessibility regulations. There are sufficient suitable toilet and washing facilities for students. The school uses three local leisure centres for a range of sporting activities such as badminton and swimming. These centres provide suitable changing and showering facilities so that the requirements are met.

The inspection in November 2011 found that the school did not submit the required statement of income and expenditure for local authority funded students. The school's action plan proposed that, along with the school's monthly account invoicing, an end-of-school-year statement would be distributed to the relevant authorities. The school now sends its annual account of income received and the expenditure incurred by the school to the relevant authorities, so that requirements are met.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

## Inspection team

Peter Humphries, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- Pace Education Ltd opened in October 2010 to provide alternative education for students with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The school's last full inspection was in November 2011 when it was judged to be providing a good quality of education for its students.
- The school also admits, and is registered for, students with moderate and severe learning difficulties, including autism.
- The school is housed in a large Georgian property, once owned by Josiah Wedgewood, that enables effective learning in a safe and secure environment.
- The school is registered to take up to 30 students. Currently there are 17 students on roll, of whom three are part time. All the students have a statement of special educational needs. In all cases the students' previous education has been significantly disrupted.
- The vast majority of students are from white British backgrounds. This profile can quickly change as a result of referrals from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent local authorities.
- The school's mission is to, 'provide young people with a brighter future'.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	136245
<b>Inspection number</b>	433718
<b>DfE registration number</b>	860/6443
<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>	
<b>Type of school</b>	Day special school for students with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. A small number of students have mental health problems.
<b>School status</b>	Independent special school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	14–16 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	17
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	3
<b>Proprietor</b>	Clare Harper and Cherri Felton
<b>Headteacher</b>	Clare Harper
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	17 November 2011
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£26,372 full-time or £138 a day part-time
<b>Telephone number</b>	01782 616660
<b>Email address</b>	pace.education@mail.com

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