

Newbury Hall School

Enborne Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 6AD

Inspection dates

21 January 2014

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected in May 2013. At that time, a number of regulations were not met in respect of the curriculum, welfare, health and safety, checks on staff prior to starting employment, and the provision of information to parents. This was the first monitoring inspection to check on the progress that has been made in implementing the school's action plan so as to meet the regulations that were previously failed. The boarding provision was not inspected on this occasion.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

Senior leaders have successfully addressed all the regulations that were previously not met.

The inspection of May 2013 found that schemes of work were not adequate to guide teaching and that not all the required areas of experience were provided for students. The school in its action plan indicated that it would revise the schemes of work. Satisfactory schemes of work for all subjects are now in place. These schemes outline how subjects are to be taught over a period of time. They show that all the required subjects are taught for students of compulsory school age. In discussion with the inspector, students confirmed that they were studying all the required subjects, including aspects of aesthetic education through art and drama. The curriculum has been widened because all students take part in the Duke Of Edinburgh's award scheme. This not only allows students to follow some personal interests but also enables them to participate in activities in the wider community. All students take part in physical education.

The inspection of May 2013 found weaknesses in the implementation of the school's policy for health and safety and in its checks on the suitability of staff. Senior staff have put in place policies and procedures which have improved the rigour in the management of welfare, health and safety. Procedures for the appointment of staff now have due regard to the guidance from the Secretary of State. Appropriate checks are now undertaken on the suitability of staff before they take up posts. The checks are recorded accurately on the school's single central register. Risk assessments are carried out systematically both for general health and safety and for students' outside visits. Students and staff are well aware of the procedures that need to be carried out in order to minimise risk during visits. In discussion with the inspector, students said they felt safe and cared for. The school now has an appropriate admission register. Senior leaders are continuing to improve and refine a number of their health and safety procedures.

The inspection of 2013 found that the first aid policy and practice were inadequate. The first aid policy has been amended and now covers all the required practices and procedures. First aid kits are now well maintained and checked regularly. An appropriate number of staff have been trained in first aid to a suitable level.

The school's website has been updated and information that was not previously available for parents is now in place. This includes procedures for outside visits, academic performance, the complaints procedures, the number of formal complaints received, and staff and their qualifications.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

Daniel Towl HMI, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Newbury Hall School, on the outskirts of Newbury, is an international boarding school that provides for students aged from 13 to 18.
- All students come from overseas from many parts of the world.
- All are learning to speak English as an additional language, with most arriving in the early stages of development.
- The school opened in 2008 and was registered in March 2009.
- It is registered for 88 students but currently there are 37 students on roll. No student has a statement of special educational needs and none is disabled.
- The school provides boarding accommodation for its students. Currently, 31 are living in purpose-built facilities on the campus and six reside with host families in the Newbury area.
- The school's central purpose is to enable students to improve their use of English and to help young people from overseas to grow into successful adults with good social skills, self-discipline and high self-esteem, and to become accredited in GCSE and A-level examinations.
- There have been changes in leadership staff and teaching staff since the last inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	135819
Social care unique reference number	SC382720
Inspection number	433018
DfE registration number	869/6016
<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	International boarding school
School status	Independent School
Age range of students	13–18
Gender of students	Mixed
Number of students on the school roll	37
Number of boarders on roll	31 (with six students in lodgings)
Proprietor	The Education and Training Company Limited
Principal	Jon Crocker
Date of previous school inspection	14–16 May 2013
Annual fees (boarders and in lodging)	£33,400
Telephone number	01635 36879
Fax number	01365 48400
Email address	jon.crocker@newburyhall.com

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