

Young Options College

Lamledge Lane, Shifnal, TF11 8SD

Inspection dates

11 February 2014

Reason for inspection

This inspection was carried out at no notice by two of Her Majesty's Inspectors following concerns raised about safeguarding of pupils and their welfare, health and safety.

Conclusions

Inspectors reviewed the school's procedures to safeguard pupils and spoke to the designated officer for child protection. Plans are in place and an up-to-date policy outlines the school's procedures to keep pupils safe. From speaking to pupils in school, most stated that they felt safe and that teachers took care of them. Members of staff check pupils are safe, for example, by observing pupils on corridors, in the school canteen and outside in the school grounds. Pupils value the presence and visibility of staff. However, some of the younger pupils say that areas within school can sometimes be 'scary' when the older pupils misbehave.

The headteacher has very recently been appointed to the role. She is the nominated child protection officer. All training for child protection is either up to date or is planned for updating in the very near future.

Good behaviour is promoted effectively and merits reward pupils when they behave well, earning trips off the site. An anti-bullying strategy is in place and records are maintained when poor behaviour occurs. These records include details of the incident and in some cases, but not all, reference to what sanction was given. Leaders in school acknowledge more work needs to be done to ensure that sanctions and the consequences of poor behaviour are recorded and are clear to all pupils.

Staff are highly visible around the school site. This helps to ensure that behaviour is generally controlled well. Staff are vigilant towards pupils and provide support when pupils show challenging behaviour. Many examples were seen of pupils demonstrating good relationships with adults and a mutual respect was evident. However, on occasions, pupils' failure to adhere to school rules can place them in dangerous situations.

Health and safety procedures are clear and staff apply the policy consistently. Risk assessments are robust and regular checks are made to equipment to ensure it is compliant with regulations. Checks on electrical appliances and procedures to prevent fire are fully implemented, including checks on fire safety equipment and regular fire drills. First aid procedures are in place and staff have been trained to an appropriate level.

The school holds an admission register where it records details of the pupils who attend the school. An attendance register monitors pupils' absence. Not all aspects of the admission register are compliant with the relevant standard because, although the school can find all the information required, it is not always easily accessible and is not all

contained within the admission register.

Appropriate checks are made to ensure the suitability of staff. All staff have completed an enhanced criminal record check, and procedures to recruit staff are robust. The headteacher has completed safer recruitment training and documents are recorded on application procedures. The school maintains a single central record of all staff, which complies with regulations.

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

Ensure there is an admission and attendance register which is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.¹

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made

Inspection team

Jane Millward, Lead Inspector
Deborah James

Her Majesty's Inspector
Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Young Options College is a small independent purpose-built day school for students aged nine to eighteen years.
- The school is located on a large campus in a semi-rural environment just outside Shifnal in Shropshire. The school moved to its current site in 2006.
- It is registered to provide comprehensive care, education and therapy services for up to 50 students who may be looked after and who have complex and severe behavioural, psychological and psychiatric difficulties.
- Students are admitted from a large number of local authorities across the United Kingdom.
- Currently there are 44 secondary-aged students on roll, most of whom have a statement of special educational needs. Three quarters live in residential provision within the wider Young Options organisation.
- The school aims to, 'equip students with the necessary skills and support to develop holistically, through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum and community based provision'.
- The school was previously inspected in December 2011, when it was found to provide an outstanding quality of education.

School details

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| Unique reference number | 133478 |
| Inspection number | 441649 |
| DfE registration number | 893/6025 |
| Type of school | Primary and secondary |
| School status | Independent School |
| Age range of pupils | 7–19 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 45 |
| Proprietor | Young Options Group |
| Chair | Graham Baker |
| Headteacher | Julia Saint |
| Date of previous school inspection | 7 December 2011 |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £83,428 |
| Telephone number | 01952 468220 |
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