

Educational Excellence

49-55 Brighton Road, , Surrey, null, CR2 6ED

Inspection dates

04 February 2014

Reason for inspection

The inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education because there were concerns about safeguarding and welfare, health and safety and students' behaviour. The school has also applied for a 'material change' because it wishes to move to new premises and raise the number of students on roll to 60.

Conclusions

In moving to new premises and with a very recent change in headteacher, the proprietor and senior staff have not been diligent in ensuring that the school meets all the regulations for independent schools.

The management of welfare, health and safety is inadequate, though immediate steps are being taken to rectify policies and procedures to ensure that all the regulations are met quickly. Some matters were attended to during the inspection.

The single central register, showing that the required checks of staff suitability to work with children, has the required information, though some minor administrative errors had to be corrected during the inspection. The school is waiting for one criminal record check but has undertaken other checks that allow the member of staff to work under supervision. Information stored in staff files is haphazard.

The member of staff with responsibility for safeguarding has received the correct level of training. Nearly all other members of staff have received appropriate training though there are inconsistencies in their understanding of what to do if a student should disclose concerns to them. New training has been booked for the near future. Staff are clear about the importance of being alert to students' concerns and know they must act appropriately if child abuse is suspected. Child protection policies and procedures for staff are not as clear as they should be regarding the process that they should follow.

The school was not able to provide a clear record of risk assessments for general health and safety matters of the new building, though forms exist for recording such assessments. External consultants have undertaken a thorough fire risk assessment. Any required improvements are being dealt with appropriately. New fire prevention systems and alarms have been installed. The proprietor is waiting for a final assessment by the local fire and rescue service, due to take place on the day after the inspection. Electrical testing of portable appliances had not been undertaken, but was also booked for a few days' time, following the inspection

Overall behaviour is adequate. Suitable anti-bullying and behaviour policies are in place. Students' views, in discussion with the inspector, indicate that the policies are effective. Students commented that behaviour was good most of the time. They felt that sanctions

were fair and staff implemented procedures fairly and consistently. Students felt that behaviour was better here than in their previous schools and lessons were mostly uninterrupted. They said bullying was rare, including homophobic name-calling and the use of racist comments. They accepted that there was sometimes 'banter' but this was not usually derogatory or derisive. Staff report all forms of poor behaviour and sanctions on a central database which allows senior leaders to analyse any emerging patterns. During the inspection, the school had a calm atmosphere, though the school's records show that there were more recorded incidents of aggressive behaviour in the last four months since September 2013 than in the previous four months. Students are well supervised and there are a number of strategies to help them to take 'time out' and calm down if necessary.

An appropriate number of staff have first aid training. The first aid policy does not have enough information about school-specific procedures. During the inspection there were insufficient first aid kits around the school and one that was inspected had inadequate materials. The school policy on first aid does not have information about hygienic procedures to deal with blood and bodily fluids, nor about the circumstances when an emergency call should be made.

The buildings do not yet meet all the requirements of the regulations for premises and accommodation. The school is spread over four floors and a basement. The main administrative and classroom areas have been refurbished and offer good quality accommodation. The main part of the building is clean and tidy. The basement is still undergoing refurbishment but has a gymnasium and common rooms.

At present there is no specific accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of students or where they can rest quietly if they are sick or injured. Although the school offers fitness training sessions on site, as part of physical education (PE) provision, there are no shower facilities for students. The school does not yet have a suitable outdoor area for students' recreation because there are building materials taking up the space.

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 that safeguarding documentation has very clear procedures for what staff should do if they have concerns about a student, including the names of the designated person on the staff and key telephone numbers for external agencies; ensure that all staff files have consistent information; ensure that all health and safety regulations are met swiftly. paragraph 7

Ensure that general health and safety risk assessments are completed and checked regularly. paragraph 11

Ensure that first-aid supplies are adequate and that policies and procedures make clear how to deal hygienically with blood and bodily fluids and when to call for emergency outside aid. paragraph 14

Take all necessary steps to 'follow-up' and obtain any outstanding criminal paragraph 19(2(c))

records checks.

Ensure that there are suitable changing and shower facilities for students who receive physical education.	paragraph 23(A)(1)(c)
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Ensure that suitable facilities are available for the medical examination and treatment of students	(paragraph 23B(1)(a))
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Ensure that there are suitable facilities for the short term care of the sick and injured students, which includes a washing facility and which is near to a toilet.	paragraph 23B(1)(b)
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Ensure that there is adequate outdoor space to enable student recreation to take place.	paragraph 23G(1)(b)
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Inspection team

Daniel Towl HMI, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Educational Excellence is an independent school for boys and girls aged from 11 to 16 years who have emotional, behavioural or social difficulties. The school has just taken over new premises close to Croydon centre.
- The school offers alternative educational provision for students who have either been excluded from mainstream schools or require additional support for specific subjects whilst attending pupil referral units. Some students attend the school for short periods of time before returning to their main school, others are permanently on roll. There are 56 pupils on roll. Twenty pupils have a statement of special educational needs. Four students are in care or are looked after.
- The majority of students are from a diverse range of minority ethnic backgrounds. No students speak English as an additional language. The school states that its aims are to 'raise awareness; engage parents as part of the solution; ensure pupil personalisation; take a multi-agency approach and influence change'.

School details

Unique reference number	137671
Inspection number	439264
DfE registration number	306/6010
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	Special day school for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	11–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	56
Number of part time pupils	30
Proprietor	Mr J P Thangavalu
Headteacher	Mr Sundy Moodley
Date of previous school inspection	16-17 October 2012
Annual fees	£9,000-£29,000
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