

Hill House School

Rope Hill, Boldre, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 8NE

Inspection date

27 February 2014

Context of the inspection

- This unannounced progress monitoring inspection of the school took place at the request of the Department for Education to evaluate the progress of the school in the implementation of its action plan.
- The school was last inspected on 25 September 2013. During this inspection it was found that the school failed to meet several independent school standards in respect of the welfare, health and safety of pupils and the suitability of the proprietor, staff and supply staff.
- The school submitted an action plan to the Department for Education on 28 November 2013 outlining how these deficiencies would be addressed. This was evaluated on 11 December 2013 and found to meet requirements.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

The September 2013 inspection found that not all school staff were fully aware of all the procedures relating to safeguarding children and young people. The school has made good progress and this regulation is now met. Staff are systematically trained in safeguarding issues as part of a thorough induction package. Records of training are maintained. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item on all meeting agendas. The safeguarding policy is clear, easily accessible to all and outlines all the necessary procedures. There are notices around the school identifying the designated officer for safeguarding and alternative contacts to remind staff and pupils who they should talk to in case of concerns. Any notification to Ofsted takes place within the required timescales. Safeguarding requirements are now met.

Since the last inspection, when it was reported that the use of high-risk and high level physical interventions had reached unacceptable proportions and that the monitoring of such actions was not well recorded or analysed, the school has made excellent progress. The school is in transition towards a new system of behaviour management with respect to interventions. The careful recording of all such interventions shows that interventions, particularly those using high-risk restraints, are steadily reducing for all but one pupil. The school now has good systems in place to monitor the use of supine restraint on a daily basis. Senior management, consequently, have a clear understanding of when this is being used and by whom, and all staff are using this information appropriately to further reduce the need for such interventions. Systems for monitoring the welfare of students after supine restraint are now in place. The relevant regulation is now met.

The school has introduced zonal fire evacuation procedures which are clearly displayed around the school. Staff report that they are confident about these. The frequency of fire drill practices has increased and care has been taken to ensure that the drills take place at different times of day and at times when different staff members are on duty. The regulation with respect to fire precautions is now met.

Effective systems are now in place to ensure that all first aid kits are well maintained and up to date. Routine medications are only administered to students by trained staff through the house system. All staff have up-to-date first aid training and the relevant requirements are met.

The single central register is up to date. All staff are subject to an enhanced check by the Disclosure and Barring Service before they start work at the school and appropriate checks are made on foreign nationals. This regulation is now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all independent school standards.

Inspection team

Emma Ing, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Hill House is a residential special school near Lymington, Hampshire.
- It is owned and managed by Cambian Education Services.
- The school caters for young people who have autistic spectrum disorder, very complex needs and associated challenging behaviours.
- There are 23 students on roll, all of whom have a statement of special educational needs and are placed by local authorities.
- The school was last inspected in September 2013.

School details

Unique reference number	116565
Inspection number	441302
DfE registration number	850/6031
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 School
School status	Independent residential special school
Age range of pupils	11–19 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	23
Proprietor	Cambian Education Services
Headteacher	Kate Landells
Date of previous school inspection	25 September 2013
Telephone number	01590 672147
Email address	Kate.landells@cambianguroup.com

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