

Bishopstrow College

Bishopstrow Road, Bishopstrow, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 9HU

Inspection dates

8–9 May 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. The school had its last full Ofsted inspection combined with a social care inspection on 8 October 2013. It did not meet standards for independent schools referenced in Part 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils, and Part 6: The provision of information for parents, carers and others. Also, the school did not meet several national minimum standards (NMS) for boarding schools. The school produced an action plan which was reviewed and accepted on 14 April 2014.

This is the first visit to the school to follow up its progress since the last inspection. Areas of focus for the inspectors were arrangements for keeping children safe, staff training in safeguarding, the supervision of boarders and the choice of activities for boarders.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

The school has taken action to meet the following independent school standards.

- **Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. (Paragraph 7)**

Since the last inspection the senior designated person responsible for child protection has received appropriate training which has strengthened her knowledge of working with other agencies to safeguard children. Training has been completed at an advanced level and this action has been sufficient to ensure that the standard is now met.

- **Ensure that an updated safeguarding children policy (as required under part 3, paragraph 7) is published on the school's website. (Paragraph 24(1)(c))**

The safeguarding policy has been reviewed to ensure that it meets all current requirements and it is published on the school's website. This action has been sufficient to ensure that the standard is now met.

The school has taken the following action to meet the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

- **Ensure that there is an appropriate range and choice of activities for boarders outside teaching time, including sufficient and suitably timed free time each day. (NMS 10.1)**

The school has taken a very suitable range of actions well within the original timescale which ensure that the standard is met. Students have more choice about whether they participate in activities and more options are available. The provision

of increased free time for junior and middle-year students has helped students to feel more relaxed and to settle well at bedtime. Students value the introduction of monthly 'lazy weekends' which allows them greater time for relaxation, play or organising their own additional study. Information from questionnaires the school gives to students and from discussions with inspectors confirms the popularity of these developments.

■ **Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and that such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (as referenced in 'Boarding Schools National Minimum Standards'). (NMS 11)**

The school has amended its safeguarding policy to reflect current national guidance and local policies and procedures. The policy provides appropriate guidance to staff to support them in keeping students safe. These changes have been backed up by the provision of relevant training for staff at all levels. Robust systems enable the effective sharing of information and the monitoring of any concerns about students' welfare. School information has been made more accessible to students by taking closer account of their first language. Referring agents have translated key documents and made them available to parents and carers. The school has taken decisive action within the timescale to ensure that the regulation is now met.

■ **Ensure that senior boarding staff have an adequate level of experience and/or training. (NMS 13.2)**

A new management structure has been introduced which identifies clear lines of responsibility, delegation and communication which are understood by staff and students. The head of boarding and assistant head of boarding have sufficient experience and qualifications to lead the boarding team in the safe care of students. The school has taken appropriate action to ensure the standard is now met.

■ **Ensure that the staff supervising boarders outside of teaching time are sufficient in number, training and experience for the age, number and needs of boarders, and the locations and activities involved. (NMS 15.3)**

Arrangements for supervising boarders have been strengthened and the number of staff on duty outside teaching time is now sufficient. The school uses local authority guidance to determine the number of staff required to supervise trips out. Induction arrangements ensure all staff complete child protection training at the appropriate level. Personal development plans for staff contain records of their training needs and professional development plans to improve their levels of skill. The school has taken appropriate action to ensure that the regulation is now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements and national minimum standards for boarding schools

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

Inspection team

Andrew Redpath, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Jennifer Reed

Social Care Inspector

Information about this school

- Bishopstrow College is an English language college for boys and girls whose first language is not English and who plan to enter a boarding school in the United Kingdom. It is set in eight acres of grounds in the village of Bishopstrow near Warminster, Wiltshire. The college offers intensive English tuition from elementary to advanced level, combined with teaching in other subjects.
- The college is fully accredited by the British Council for the provision of English courses. It operates a four-term year and students attend between one and four terms. Students come from a range of countries and the vast majority have little or no English when admitted. None has a statement of special educational needs.
- The college opened in 2006 and is registered for 65 boarders and five day students aged seven to 17 years. There are currently 67 students on roll aged from seven to 17 years, two of whom are day students.
- The school had its last full Ofsted inspection combined with a social care inspection in October 2013.
- The college aims to 'enable students to fulfil their potential and foster the shared values of respect for others and the environment'.

School details

Unique reference number	135486
Social care unique reference number	SC367610
Inspection number	443646
DfE registration number	865/6041
<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> <p>The inspection of boarding provision was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.</p>	
Type of school	Language college
School status	Independent boarding school
Age range of pupils	7–17
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	67
Number of part time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	65
Proprietor	Frances and Ian Henson
Headteacher	Frances Henson
Date of previous school inspection	8–10 October 2013
Termly fees (day pupils)	£6,950
Termly fees (boarders)	£9,950
Telephone number	01985 219210
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