

Wings School Notts

Kirklington Hall, Kirklington, Newark, NG22 8NB

Inspection dates

21 May 2014

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected on 8-9 May 2013, as part of a standard s162A inspection. Her Majesty's Inspectors made two further one day visits to the school following this inspection to gather more evidence on pupils' behaviour, welfare, health and safety to substantiate their final judgements. Inspectors found that pupils' welfare, health and safety, and the quality of leadership and management were inadequate. There were three unmet regulations in relation to pupils' welfare, health and safety, and three unmet regulations in relation to the premises and accommodation of the school. An action plan was prepared by the school to address the issues identified during the inspection. The plan was reviewed and accepted, by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. This was the first visit to the school to follow up its progress in implementing the plan. The visit was made without notice. The residential provision adjoining the school, but under separate registration, was inspected at the same time as this monitoring visit as part of an aligned inspection arrangement. The inspection was conducted by a different team and a separate report has been prepared.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

The inspection found that the school has made good progress since the last inspection and now meets all regulatory requirements.

During this visit, Her Majesty's Inspectors held discussions with the principal, senior staff, a teacher, a teaching assistant, and the school nurse. A telephone conversation was held with the local authority designated officer for safeguarding (LADO). A number of policies and documents were scrutinised, including policies for safeguarding and health and safety, first aid, incident logs and risk assessments. Her Majesty's Inspectors also toured the school, including a visit to each learning area, to observe the school's work.

At the time of the last inspection, arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school were not good enough because the school's safeguarding policy and procedures were not being implemented properly. Since the last inspection, the school's safeguarding policy and procedures have significantly improved. Leaders have ensured that staff have received appropriate training to enable them to implement the school's policy and procedures effectively. A number of senior staff have received higher level child protection training and comprehensive systems have been implemented to ensure that procedures are reviewed frequently, for example through the formation of a safeguarding committee which meets monthly to review practice. Leaders work effectively with external agencies, including the local authority designated officer (LADO) for safeguarding. Leaders have accurately identified that they need to work more effectively with the police, to ensure that any incidents with police involvement are managed more efficiently. Monthly meeting with representatives of the local police force have recently been established for this purpose.

The last inspection found that the school's health and safety policy was not being implemented effectively enough. As a result, staff were not identifying and remedying hazards effectively enough. For example, risk assessment documentation for out-of-school trips was not completed fully. There were also health and safety issues in the school building, including windows on upper floors being unrestrained, a lack of safety glass and some electrical items not receiving safety checks. The school's health and safety policy and procedures have now been thoroughly reviewed. The procedure for operating out of school trips has been comprehensively overhauled. All trips now have to be signed off by a senior leader before pupils leave the site, and appropriate risk assessments have to be completed in full prior to the trip being signed off. Windows on upper floors in the school now have suitable restrainers to help keep pupils safe and windows are being replaced with suitable safety glass. Electrical items now undergo suitable testing and a central register has been established to keep a record of this.

At the time of the last inspection, the school's first aid policy was not being implemented consistently. The medical room was not equipped properly and staff had not completed sufficient training. The school's first aid policy was revised in April 2014, as part of a review of the full health and safety policy. An additional six members of staff have received first aid training and pictures of the school's designated first aiders appear in prominent positions around the school. Additional ligature and self-harm training has been completed by some staff, which has included training in using a ligature knife. The medical room is now equipped adequately, and includes a bin for clinical wastage. The school has improved its systems for managing epi-pens, to ensure that spare epi-pens are more easily accessible in the case of an emergency.

The last inspection found that changing accommodation for pupils was unsuitable. A number of storage items were located in the boys' changing area and showers in changing room areas were out of operation. Cold water supplies around the school were not clearly marked to identify water suitable for drinking, and hot water outlets were not checked to ensure they ran at a safe temperature. Storage items have now been removed from the boys' changing area and showers in the boys' and girls' changing areas are now operational after undergoing refurbishment. Labels have been applied to cold water supplies to indicate whether water is suitable for drinking, and an additional source of fresh drinking water has been installed in the dining area. The temperature of water coming from the hot taps in the school is monitored as part of routine monthly checks.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

Jeremy Spencer, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Joanne Harvey

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Wings School Notts is a school for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties aged between nine and 17 years old. The school is dually registered as a children's home.
- There are currently 25 pupils on roll, although the school is registered for up to 54 pupils. Pupils are placed in the school, by their local authority, on either a 38 week or a 52 week basis.
- The majority of pupils are of White British origin although there is a small proportion from minority ethnic backgrounds. All pupils in the school have had significant disruption to their schooling prior to arriving at Wings School Notts. Nearly all pupils have a statement of special educational needs identifying behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. The large majority are looked after by their local authorities. Currently the school has pupils from 12 local authorities across England.
- A new Principal took up his post in July 2013.

School details

Unique reference number	136039
Inspection number	444437
DfE registration number	891/6036
<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	Special
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	9–17 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	25
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	The Kedleston Group
Chair	Paul Brosnan
Principal	John Flint
Date of previous school inspection	9 May 2013
Annual fees	38 weeks £112,875 or 52 weeks £165,534
Telephone number	01636 817430
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