

Estuary High School

820 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3NH

Inspection dates

16 May 2014

Context of the inspection

This inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made since its last inspection. The school's last full inspection was in March 2012 when it was found to provide a good quality of education, but a small number of regulations were not met. An action plan was produced to remedy the weaknesses. The evaluation of the school's action plan was completed on 13 June 2012 and it was found to be satisfactory. The school requested a material change and Ofsted visited the school on 14 October 2013 at the request of the Department for Education to check the suitability of the existing premises at 820 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3NH. The school failed to meet several regulations at this time. The school's action plan following this visit was evaluated by Ofsted on 10 December 2013 when it was found to be a satisfactory response. A monitoring inspection in March 2014 found that most regulations were met but that the school failed to maintain the attendance register appropriately.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

At the previous monitoring inspection in March 2014 the school failed to maintain the attendance register appropriately. The attendance register is now completed diligently at the beginning of the school day and after the lunch break. Members of staff use the correct codes consistently to record attendance, absence and off-site activities, including work placements.

During the inspection, the school's pre-employment safeguarding checks and single central record were scrutinized. The school holds a complete record of all of the necessary pre-employment checks for all permanent members of staff as well as visiting staff including those from the linked children's home. Random checks are completed to validate the information on application forms. References are secured from previous employers to ensure that there have been no previous concerns regarding the suitability of staff to work with children.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

Michelle Winter, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Estuary High School is a special school for a maximum of ten boys, between 13 and 18 years of age, with emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- There are currently ten boys on roll, seven of whom have a statement of special educational needs.
- All students are looked after children and are placed here by a number of local authorities.
- Six of the students live in the children's home owned by the proprietor, four of the students are in foster care.
- The school, which opened in January 2007, is part of Kites Children's Services Limited which caters for various aspects of the needs of adolescent males.
- The school's last full inspection was in March 2012. There were further monitoring inspections in October 2013 and March 2014.
- The school aims to provide, 'a learning environment which will enable students to have a full range of educational activities, both within the school and wider community, within a supportive framework involving encouragement, therapy, self-awareness and discipline'. This is based on the philosophy that, 'despite their difficulties, all students have the potential to become fully active, productive and safe members of the wider community, with positive and meaningful roles to play'.
- The headteacher was appointed in November 2012. Two qualified teachers joined the school in September 2013.
- One teacher left the school in May 2014. A temporary part-time teacher joined the school in April 2014.

School details

Unique reference number	134940
Inspection number	446425
DfE registration number	882/6053
<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	Secondary special school for boys with emotional and social difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	13–18
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	10
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Kites Children's Services Limited
Headteacher	Simone Issacs
Date of previous school inspection	8 March 2012
Fees (day pupils)	£666 per week
Telephone number	01702 483999
Email address	info@kites.com

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