

Cressex Lodge (SWAAY)

Cressex Lodge, Terrace Road South, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 4DE

Inspection dates

7 July 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 action plan was evaluated in December 2012 and was accepted by the Department for Education. This is the third monitoring inspection since the school's last full inspection in September 2012.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

The previous monitoring inspection of November 2013 found that although most subjects had schemes of work that linked to other medium- and short-term plans, the schemes of work for history and geography did not have enough detail and were not supported adequately by other plans. Schemes of work for history and geography are now fit for purpose and identify appropriate use of resources, opportunities for regular assessment and what skills students will develop. Teachers are using these schemes of work to inform their individual lesson planning.

The November inspection visit found that students' individual needs were not effectively known and documented. The needs of students are now well documented, including for those who have a statement of special educational needs. Teachers have received regular training delivered by the special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) and lesson plans identify strategies to address the needs of individual students. Inspectors saw teachers making successful use of these strategies to secure progress in lessons. Because teachers are planning lessons to meet the needs of individual students better, there are fewer opportunities for students to become disengaged. Consequently, the number of recorded incidents of poor behaviour has reduced dramatically. Lessons are monitored by the SENCO and therapeutic staff to see whether the strategies teachers are deploying are effective.

The previous inspection visit found shortcomings in the quality of teaching. The headteacher now maintains up-to-date records of the quality of teaching in the school. Inspectors saw teachers making appropriate use of time and suitable use of available classroom resources. Resources are adequate, but a student's learning experience in science was less positive owing to the lack of an interactive whiteboard when the teacher attempted to show him a video on water pollution and had to resort to a small-sized computer screen. Students are provided with opportunities at the end of lessons to assess their own performance and progress, and most students feel that their teachers make good use of this information when planning for future learning.

The previous monitoring inspection of November 2013 expressed concerns about the school's use of assessment in planning lessons and made reference to the school not having taken any steps to have its assessments moderated to check they are accurate.

School leaders have not acted on this with sufficient urgency, and there remains a lack of rigour in the school's systems for assessing students' progress. All moderation of assessments is carried out internally and key members of staff could not provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the school's assessments of students' performance are accurate. Consequently, although teachers are provided with suggested strategies to meet individual students' needs, leaders are unable to confirm that the teaching is always pitched at the right level.

The previous inspection found that health and safety precautions in the design and technology room were inadequate. Swift action has since been taken to minimise any health and safety risks in design and technology lessons. A new teaching room has been established which is well ventilated. Students are aware of health and safety regulations, and a separate part of the school is now used as an eating and refreshment room.

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 teachers have a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons

Paragraph
3(d)

Ensure that outcomes from assessment are used to plan lessons so that pupils can make good progress

Paragraph
3(g)

Inspection team

John Daniell, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Mary Rayner

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Cressex Lodge (SWAAY) is an independent day school located in a village near Bracknell. It is part of a residential provision which provides education and therapeutic treatment and it operates collaboratively as part of a therapeutic community provided by SWAAY Child and Adolescent Services Ltd.
- The school opened in 2006 and it is registered for up to 18 boys, aged between 11 and 16 years, who have specific social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. There are currently 13 boys on roll aged between 13 and 16 years, some of whom have moderate, specific and complex learning difficulties.
- There are seven students with a statement of special educational needs. All students are under the care of their respective local authority. Students join the school with a history of interrupted schooling and generally remain at the school for a minimum of two years.
- The school has been under new ownership since September 2011. Since the school's last inspection in September 2012, there has been a high turnover of teaching staff. An order was served on the school on 27 January 2014 requiring the school to cease to admit new students. Ofsted understands that due to the progress made by the school identified in this report, the Department for Education plans to revoke this order imminently.

The school aims to 'work together to support the whole development of each young person towards responsible adulthood. Through practice based on the SWAAY philosophy we offer the highest levels of care, an individualised curriculum for each young person to reach his full educational potential and a personalised programme for each to improve his social and emotional skills.'

School details

Unique reference number	110178
Inspection number	450598
DfE registration number	867/6580
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	Day school for students with specific social, emotional and behavioural difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11–16 years
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	13
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	SWAAY Child and Adolescent Services Ltd
Chair	Les Glazier
Headteacher	Sarah Snape
Date of previous school inspection	26–27 September 2012
Fees (day pupils)	£850 per week
Telephone number	01344 862221
Fax number	01189 665454
Email address	cx@swaay.co.uk

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