

Educational Excellence and Wellbeing

112–114 High Street, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1ND

Inspection dates

15 July 2014

Context of the inspection

- The inspection was undertaken at the request of the Department for Education, in order to monitor the progress the school has made in addressing the regulations that were not met at the time of the monitoring inspection in February 2014. The independent school regulations concerned safeguarding in relation to the suitability of staff; pupils' welfare, health and safety; and the premises and accommodation of the school.
- The school's last full inspection took place in October 2012. The Department for Education commissioned a progress monitoring inspection on 4 February 2014. This was because there were concerns about safeguarding, and welfare, health and safety, and students' behaviour. The school had also applied to the Department for Education for a material change as the proprietor had planned to move to new premises and increase the number of students on roll. At the time of this monitoring inspection, the school had moved to new premises and appointed a new headteacher. The inspection found that the school did not meet a number of requirements for safeguarding; welfare, health and safety; and the new premises.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

The monitoring inspection of February 2014 found that the school did not meet all the requirements for independent schools. The school did not have policies and procedures to meet all regulations for pupils' welfare, health and safety. The inspection found that the proprietor and senior leaders had begun to address some of the shortcomings during the inspection. Following the monitoring inspection, the school completed the process by putting into place the policies and procedures required to meet the regulations. In March 2014, the proprietor informed the Department for Education that the regulations that were not met had been addressed. A commissioned report from the local authority was sent to the Department for Education confirming compliance with the standards. An action plan was therefore not drawn up.

Policies on child protection and students' welfare, and procedures for following up disclosures, have been updated. All policies are now kept under review and most are dated. Members of staff with responsibility for child protection, including the designated person, are all named, and external agencies working in partnership with the school are also identified clearly. Staff files are better organised and there is a regular approach to collating the information held. The school has worked with the local authority and ensured that all members of staff have received the same child protection training at the required level.

As at the last monitoring inspection, students' views about behaviour at the school are

positive. They indicate that behaviour is mostly good and that, while teasing occurs, all forms of bullying are rare. Students acknowledge that the sanctions are strict but they said that the staff treat them fairly. They report that they can 'connect' with the staff who provide them with good-quality support and guidance.

The last monitoring inspection found that risk assessments were not completed and checked regularly. Thorough risk assessments for general health and safety matters of the new building have now been completed. The local fire and rescue service has carried out the final assessment and appropriate tests have been carried out on all portable electrical appliances. Risk assessment records are now maintained regularly and appropriately; these include those for organised trips for students and involve identifying and dealing with potential danger.

At the time of the last monitoring inspection, the first-aid supplies were not adequate and the school did not have policies and procedures in place for dealing hygienically with all forms of bodily fluid spillages. A written policy and additional guidelines are now in place and practice and procedures now meet requirements. Staff are clear about responsibilities for dealing with different types of spillages and making an emergency call. First-aid kits are now positioned on each floor of the school and those responsible have begun to check that the kits are in order.

The monitoring inspection found that the school was not persistent in following up any outstanding checks for all staff appointed. The single central register is now organised and held securely. Checks are up to date with all of the required information recorded clearly. Since the monitoring visit, tighter procedures have been introduced and set within a time limit when staff are offered an appointment at the school.

Action has been taken to ensure that the school complies with the regulation for installing suitable changing and shower facilities for students who receive physical education. New shower units have been installed for both boys and girls, and there is good access to hot and cold water. Appropriate arrangements are in place for students to change for physical education in the bathroom facilities.

The school has created suitable accommodation to meet the medical needs of students if they require treatment or rest when unwell. The new room has all the necessary facilities, including a sink, access to hot and cold water, a first aid kit and a bed. The room has easy access to toilets.

When the monitoring inspection was carried out in February 2014, the school did not have a suitable outdoor area for students to take part in recreation activities. The site has been cleared of building materials, the air conditioning units have been boxed in and the refuse bins appropriately sited. Students were observed making use of the external outdoor area for football or to relax quietly, while others used the lounge allocated to them.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

Carmen Rodney, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Educational Excellence is an independent school for boys and girls aged 11 to 16 who have emotional, behavioural or social difficulties. The school has been in new premises near to Croydon town centre since January 2014.
- The school offers alternative educational provision for students who have either been excluded from mainstream schools or require additional support for specific subjects while attending pupil referral units. Some students are on dual roll and will attend the school for short periods of time before returning to their main school; others are permanently on roll. The school currently has 44 students on roll. Of these, 16 have a statement of special educational needs. Four students are looked after.
- The school serves a diverse range of students from minority ethnic backgrounds and none speaks English as an additional language. The school states that its primary aims are to 'raise awareness; engage parents as part of the solution; ensure pupil personalisation; take a multi-agency approach and influence change'.
- Since the last inspection, the school has appointed a deputy headteacher.

School details

Unique reference number	137671
Inspection number	446409
DfE registration number	306/6010
This inspection was carried out 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 day school for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	25
Number of part time pupils	19
Proprietor	J P Thangavalu
Executive Principal	S Moodley
Date of previous school inspection	4 February 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£9,000–£29,100
Telephone number	020 8688 8665
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