

# Sacrewell Lodge School

## Inspection dates

24 September 2014

## Overall outcome

**Independent school standards not met**

## Context of the inspection

- The previous inspection was on 11-12 December 2013, when the school was judged inadequate in all aspects of its work and did not meet 37 of the Independent School Standards.
- The Department for Education (DfE) issued a Notice to the school on 9 January 2014.
- The school submitted an action plan to the DfE in March 2014 and this was rejected.
- This is the first monitoring inspection and the school received no notice of the inspection.

## Main findings

### Curriculum

- The inspection in December found that the school did not meet eight of the Independent School Standards for the curriculum. The curriculum failed to meet students' learning needs or make sure that students made the progress they should. There were no schemes of work or programme for students' personal, social and health education (PSHE). In the action plan, the proprietor undertook to establish the required policies and schemes of work. These are now in place and suitably implemented so that six of the failed standards are now met. Although the curriculum provides for older students to study for GCSEs when appropriate, there are no opportunities for them to take the examinations. This means that students are not able to make as much progress as they should.
- At the time of the previous inspection, the school provided education for students above compulsory school age but was not registered to do so. The school has continued to provide for students above compulsory school age. The proprietor must, as a matter of urgency, resolve this matter with the DfE.

### Teaching and assessment

- The inspection in December found that teaching failed to meet three of the Independent School Standards because arrangements to assess students' needs and progress were not in place. In the action plan, the proprietor undertook to establish assessment procedures. As a result of appropriate actions, baseline assessments are in place and lessons are suitably planned for students' abilities. Teachers assess students' achievements in each lesson and then use these to plan subsequent work. Students gained a range of accredited courses in the summer term through AQA and ASDAN (Award Scheme and Accreditation Network).

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

- The inspection in December found that eight Independent School Standards were not met because teachers did not know of their responsibilities to promote the required range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of students' development, or that political views must be presented in a balanced way, and there was no programme for PSHE. In the action plan, the proprietor undertook to put a suitable programme in place. The PSHE and citizenship programmes are now in place and students' work shows that a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural knowledge aspects were taught and explored in the summer term. Staff are now aware of their responsibility to present any political issues in a balanced way.

## Welfare, health and safety

- The inspection in December found that arrangements to safeguard students were inadequate because staff did not have the right level of training and the policy was confusing. In the action plan, the proprietor undertook to review the policy and to provide training. This standard remains unmet because although the designated officer for child protection has the right level of training, the headteacher has not had any training. In addition, although the safeguarding policy has been reviewed, it does not have regard to the DfE's *Keeping children safe in education* guidance and the *Working together to safeguard children* document. The policy also lacks sufficient detail about recording disclosures. Staff are not aware of the relevant guidance for keeping children safe, inter-agency working or restriction of liberty and restraint.
- The inspection in December found that the teachers had not received training in restraint. Current staff have had this training, as identified in the school's action plan.
- The inspection in December found that the anti-bullying policy was out of date and not implemented effectively. As identified in the action plan, the policy was revised but the standard is still not met because the policy lacks sufficient detail to make sure that students know about the full range of bullying and inequality that might take place. In addition, the policy does not refer to the current guidance from the DfE.
- The inspection in December found that health and safety policies and procedures were inadequate in identifying risks on the premises and for students when on school trips. In the action plan, the proprietor undertook to revise the documents and procedures. There is now a suitable policy for taking students off the site but the standard remains unmet because daily and weekly checks for the premises have not been done and the testing of electrical equipment is overdue.
- The inspection in December found that the proprietor failed to ensure adequate arrangements to assess the risk of fire or to take action on the risks identified by an external assessor. The proprietor undertook to employ contractors to carry out a new assessment and this was done in January 2014. There were no recommendations for action.
- The inspection in December found that the proprietor failed to make suitable arrangements for first aid. Staff had not been trained and there was no information available to staff about who to go to and what to do. As identified in the school's action plan, the policy has been suitably revised and reflects current practice, with suitable guidance for staff. A list of trained first-aiders is prominently displayed.
- The inspection in December identified that there was no sanction book. This is now in place.
- The inspection in December identified that registers were not suitably kept. These now meet the requirements.

## Suitability of staff

- The inspection in December found that three Independent School Standards were failed because the single central record did not contain all of the checks made. The single central record was not available during this inspection. The standards remain unmet.

## Accommodation and premises

- The inspection in December failed two Independent School Standards for the accommodation and premises because toilet facilities were not suitable and the premises were not well

maintained. These failures have since been addressed adequately.

### Information for parents and others

- The inspection in December failed five Independent School Standards for the provision of information because the required information was not available to parents and others. Although the school brochure has been updated to include most of the required information, it still fails to inform parents about students' academic performance and the safeguarding policy. The proprietor now provides local authorities with the financial information required.

### Compliance with regulatory requirements

#### The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended, and associated requirements

- Ensure that the school has a curriculum policy set out in writing which is supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, and that it is implemented effectively (paragraph 2(1)).
- Ensure that the curriculum provides the opportunities for all pupils to learn and make progress (paragraph 2(2)(i)).
- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and that these arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7).
- Ensure that there is an effective anti-bullying strategy in place and that it is being implemented (paragraph 10).
- Ensure that there is a written policy which complies with relevant health and safety laws and that it is being implemented (paragraph 11).
- Ensure that any contractual arrangements with an employment business include the requirement to supply a copy of a criminal record certificate that contains any disclosures (paragraph 20(2)(d)).
- Ensure that for each member of staff appointed on or **after** 1 May 2007, the register shows that the following checks were made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained:
  - the person's identity
  - the person is not barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (ISA barred list), or there is no direction made under section 142 of the 2002 Act in respect of that person (List 99), or disqualification prohibition or restriction having the same effect
  - of relevant qualifications, if appropriate
  - whether an enhanced criminal records bureau (CRB) certificate was obtained
  - in the case of any person for whom, by reason of living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, the further checks made which have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State
  - of their right to work in the United Kingdom (paragraph 22(3)).
- Ensure that in relation to staff not directly employed by the school, the register shows whether written notification has been received from the employment business that it has carried out the required checks together with the date the written notification that each check was made or certificate obtained, was received. Checks required include
  - the person's identity
  - that the person is not barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (ISA barred list), or there is no direction made under section 142 of the 2002 Act in respect of that person (List 99), or disqualification prohibition or restriction having the same effect
  - where appropriate the person's qualifications
  - in the case of any person for whom, by reason of living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, checks in regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State

- the person's right to work in the United Kingdom
  - an enhanced criminal record check or a certificate in response to such a check made by it or another employment business. The criminal record check must have been obtained no more than three months before the date on which the person is due to begin work at the school; or the person has already had an enhanced criminal record check from working in a school or further education institution not more than three months previously
- and
- if an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained before the person was due to begin work and if it contained a disclosure, the school obtained a copy of the certificate from the employment business (paragraph 22(5)).
- Ensure that the following information is made available to parents of pupils, parents of prospective pupils and, on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State or an independent inspectorate:
    - particulars of academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations
    - the number of staff employed at the school, including temporary staff, and a summary of their qualifications (paragraph 24(1)(b)).
  - Ensure that the safeguarding children policy (as required under part 3, paragraph 7) is published on the school's website, or where no such website exists, that the school provides a copy to parents of pupils, and of prospective pupils, on request (paragraph 24(1)(c)).

## Inspection team

Heather Yaxley, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- Sacrewell Lodge School is a small special school that provides education for boys and girls aged between eight and 16 years.
- The school was registered in October 2010 but its first students did not arrive until January 2012.
- All of the students admitted to school reside in residential accommodation provided by the proprietor.
- The school makes provision for students in the sixth form, for which it is not currently registered.
- Students are placed at the school in relation to severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties and all students are looked after by their local authorities.
- There are currently no students on roll.
- The school does not use alternative provision to extend its curriculum.
- The school's headteacher left at short notice in September 2013. A new headteacher took up the post from April 2014, having worked at the school as a teacher from January 2014.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	136233
<b>Inspection number</b>	450961
<b>DfE registration number</b>	874/6036

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 inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

<b>Type of school</b>	Special school
<b>School status</b>	Independent special school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	8–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	CareTech Children's Services
<b>Headteacher</b>	Ruth Ashurst
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	11 December 2013
<b>Telephone number</b>	01780 784109
<b>Email address</b>	bob.yetzes@caretech-uk.com

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