

Heritage School

17-19 Brookside, Cambridge, CB2 1JE

Inspection dates

25 September 2014

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

This unannounced inspection was undertaken at the request of the Department for Education, the registration authority for independent schools, in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan. The school was last inspected in January 2012 and was judged to be good. An inspector visited the school in November 2013 following the school's request for a material change to its age range and to the maximum number of pupils it is able to accommodate. It wished to extend provision into Key Stage 4 and to admit 210 pupils in total. This inspection found that some of the independent school standards for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and for the school's premises were not fully met. An action plan was submitted by the school which set out how the school planned to address the regulation failures. This action plan was evaluated as satisfactory on 27 February 2014, subject to inspection of its implementation.

Main findings

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school has made good progress in implementing its action plan. The schemes of work to support the teaching of personal, social and health education in Years 9 and 10 are in place and are sufficiently detailed. These schemes of work are used effectively to plan relevant activities for pupils. The school has introduced formal work and organised a good enrichment programme for citizenship education.

Staff use a wide range of sources of evidence to develop pupils' understanding. Frequent talks and debates help pupils understand the breadth of public services available in England. Pupils clearly explained to inspectors why these services exist and why they are supporting people who need help, including disadvantaged families. Pupils spoke admiringly of the good level of knowledge staff have of world issues. When using outside speakers, staff are vigilant in ensuring that balanced views are presented to pupils. Parents who spoke to inspectors during this inspection are very pleased with the school. They often attend assemblies. They said that the pupils' debating society had discussed the invasion of Iraq and both sides of the argument were considered with no right or wrong observations made by adults.

Pupils are actively encouraged to discuss varied ideologies, analyse issues from different viewpoints and make up their own mind. Pupils told inspectors that teachers skilfully guide them to develop their own thinking. Inspectors saw no partisan materials in the school. The policy and practice clearly show that staff do not express an imbalanced view in any

in-school or out-of-school activities. Pupils understand how political views might differ. They speak with confidence on a wide range of topical and political matters. Pupils told inspectors that they enjoyed the debate about Scotland's independence and that it was very well presented by the headteacher. They provided many other examples of world issues, such as the conflict in the Ukraine and Afghanistan, and said that they had been provided with opportunities to debate associated issues in lessons or in assemblies.

Pupils understand the full range of British values. They know what it means to live in a democratic society. Pupils are very clear about the importance of promoting equality of opportunity for all regardless of faith, gender, ability or beliefs. Many pupils who attend the school come from different cultural or religious backgrounds. Their experiences are used well to explain their own religions and cultures to their class mates.

Premises and accommodation

Good progress has been made in ensuring that the premises meet the required standards. A sink has been installed in the medical room. There is easy access to the gas shut-off valve in the science laboratory. Pupils know that they can access drinking water from any of the cold water taps in the school.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school now meets all The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (the independent school standards) and associated requirements.

Inspection team

Marianick Ellender-Gelé, Lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Paul Tomkow	Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Heritage School is an independent, co-educational school with a Christian foundation.
- It opened in September 2007 and was last inspected in January 2012.
- There are 157 pupils on roll aged between four and 15 years who are taught in eleven classes. Eleven of these pupils are in the Reception class of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The school intends to extend its age range to 16 years.
- There are currently four pupils on roll with a statement of special educational needs.
- The school seeks to provide a high quality of education based on the principles of British educationalist, Charlotte Mason, who founded the Parents' National Education Union in the late 19th century.
- The school aims to provide a rich education, based on a broad curriculum likened to 'an abundant feast', 'designed to lay strong foundations in core skills, engage children with inspirational ideas and help them retain their natural love of learning'; and to 'prepare children for life, not merely for examinations'.

School details

Unique reference number	135404
Inspection number	451000
DfE registration number	873/6045

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.

Type of school	Independent day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	4–15
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	157
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Ranald Macaulay
Chair	Ranald Macaulay
Headteacher	Jason Fletcher
Date of previous school inspection	26 November 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,165 – £8,460
Telephone number	01223 350615
Fax number	n/a
Email address	office@heritageschool.org.uk

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