

Ashmeads School

Buccleuch Farm, Haigham Hill, Kettering, NN15 5PH

Inspection dates

22 October 2014

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards identified

Reason for the inspection

- The inspection was undertaken by Ofsted at the request of the Department for Education, following concerns that the school may not be meeting some of the requirements of the standards for registration. The Department for Education requested that the inspection should focus on the following standards for registration:
 - Part 1: The quality of education provided
 - Part 3: The welfare, health and safety of pupils.
- The inspection was conducted without notice.

Main findings

- Leaders are not working effectively enough to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. There are a number of shortcomings that need to be addressed. Leaders do not always follow the school's procedures in relation to the sharing of safeguarding information with the local authority. For example, there have been alleged inappropriate incidents between students reported on site and leaders have not always followed the correct procedures in informing the local authority.
- School leaders do not record incidents involving the welfare, health and safety of students in sufficient detail. A number of incident forms have missing information. Leaders find it difficult to find information about historical safeguarding incidents because filing systems are inefficient; particularly information which has been received electronically from other agencies.
- The school has assigned a designated officer to lead on safeguarding issues, as it is required to do. This is the headteacher. However, her training for this role is not up to date.
- During the inspection, students under the age of 16 were found smoking cigarettes at break time, in the grounds of the school. This demonstrates that staff are not protecting the welfare and health of students well enough. The school's incident records indicate that students have brought cigarettes into school, on a number of occasions. This demonstrates that the school's behaviour policy, and its implementation by staff, is not effective enough.
- The school successfully implements its anti-bullying policy. Students have a good understanding of the different types of bullying, and what constitutes bullying. All students spoken to during the inspection reported confidently that bullying was not a problem in the school.
- The school continues to meet all standards in Part 1: The quality of education provided. There is evidence that students typically engage in over 20 hours of supervised, and appropriate, educational activity each week. Discussions with students, staff, and carers accompanying children from their care homes, indicate that students are fully supervised during lessons.
- There is evidence that students make reasonable progress in their academic development, and in improving their behaviour.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet schedule 1 of 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.

Part 3: The welfare, health and safety of pupils

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school;	Paragraph 7(a)
ensure that a written policy to promote good behaviour amongst pupils is set out, including the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupil misbehaviour and that the policy is effectively implemented.	Paragraph 9

Inspection team

Jeremy Spencer, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Ashmeads School, which opened in 2007, is situated near Kettering, in Northamptonshire.
- The school provides full-time education for up to 12 boys and girls, aged 11 to 17 years, who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- The majority of the students are in public care and four have statements of special educational needs.
- There are 11 students on roll, funded by nine different local authorities.
- The school summarises its aims as, 'providing a positive and nurturing environment to support the growth and achievement of every child'.
- The school was last inspected in May 2013.

School details

Unique reference number	133515
Inspection number	453065
DfE registration number	928/6069

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	Day special school for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11–17
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	11
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Keys Child Care Ltd
Headteacher	Joyce Kuwaza
Date of previous school inspection	22 May 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£25,350 to £29,250
Telephone number	01536 725998
Fax number	01536 420847
Email address	ashmeadsschool@keyschildcare.co.uk

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