

Sacrewell Lodge School

Inspection dates

14 January 2015

Overall outcome

Independent school standards not met

Context of the inspection

- The inspection on 11-12 December 2013 judged the school inadequate in all aspects of its work and 37 of the independent school standards were not met.
- 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.
- The first progress monitoring inspection took place on 24 September 2014 and ten of the independent school standards remained unmet.
- This is the second progress monitoring inspection.
- The inspection was unannounced.

Main findings

Curriculum

- The progress monitoring inspection in September 2014 found that the school did not meet two of the Independent School Standards for the curriculum. Although students could study for GCSEs there were no opportunities for them to take the examinations. This meant that students were not able to make as much progress as they should. Arrangements are now in place for students to gain a wide range of accreditations through internal assessments and GCSE examinations, as appropriate.
- At the time of the inspection in December 2014, the school provided education for students above compulsory school age but was not registered to do so. This has not been the case since the progress monitoring inspection in September 2014.

Welfare, health and safety

- The progress monitoring inspection in September 2014 found that the safeguarding policy did not have regard to the DfE's *Keeping children safe in education* guidance and the *Working together to safeguard children* documents. In addition, the policy lacked sufficient detail about recording disclosures. Staff were not aware of the relevant guidance for keeping children safe, inter-agency working or restriction of liberty and restraint. The policy was reviewed in the autumn term 2014 and now includes appropriate guidance for staff. The headteacher has the relevant experience and understanding of interagency work to know what to do and who to contact when concerns arise about students' well-being. The headteacher will complete the training for designated teachers later this term. In the meantime, suitable arrangements are in place to fulfil the role of the designated teacher.
- The progress monitoring inspection in September 2014 found that the anti-bullying policy lacked sufficient detail to make sure that students knew about the full range of bullying and issues of inequality that might take place, and the policy did not refer to the current guidance from the DfE. A new policy includes relevant guidance for staff and links well with the policy used in the children's home.

- The progress monitoring inspection in September 2014 found that daily and weekly checks for the premises had not been done and the testing of electrical equipment was overdue. Electrical equipment was checked in October 2014 and the headteacher has implemented a useful system for checking the premises.

Suitability of staff

- The single central register was not available during the progress monitoring inspection in September 2014. It was available during this inspection but the single central register still does not include the required information about the checks that are made. The standard remains unmet.

Information for parents and others

- The progress monitoring inspection in September 2014, found that the school brochure failed to provide the required information about students' academic performance and the availability of safeguarding policy. The brochure now provides all of the required information.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements

- The proprietor must keep a register to show that in relation to each member of staff appointed on or after 1 May 2007 checks were made to establish:
 - identity
 - whether the member of staff is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act
 - whether the member of staff is subject to any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction
 - checks were made to ensure, where appropriate that the member of staff had the relevant qualifications
 - an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained for the member of staff
 - an enhanced criminal record check is made in respect of the member of staff and an enhanced criminal record certificate is obtained before or as soon as practicable after that person's appointment
 - a check was made of the member of staff's right to work in the United Kingdom
 - checks were made in the case of any person for whom, by living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining such a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person's suitability to work in a school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State
 - whether a check was made to establish whether the member of staff is subject to a prohibition order or an interim prohibition order

including the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraphs 21(1), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(ii), 21(3)(a)(iii), 21(3)(a)(iv), 21(3)(a)(v), 21(3)(a)(vi), 21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(a)(viii), 21(3)(b)).

- The proprietor must keep a register to show that in relation to each member of supply staff whether written notification has been received from the employment business to make sure that checks were made to establish:
 - identity
 - whether the member of supply staff is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act

- whether the member of supply staff is subject to any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction
 - checks were made to ensure, where appropriate that the member of supply staff had the relevant qualifications
 - a check was made of the member of supply staff's right to work in the United Kingdom
 - an enhanced criminal record check is made in respect of the member of supply staff and an enhanced criminal record certificate is obtained before or as soon as practicable after that person's appointment
 - an enhanced criminal record check has been made and that it or another employment business has obtained an enhanced criminal record certificate in response to such a check
- including the date on what which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraphs 21(1), 21(5), 21(5)(a), 21(5)(a)(i), 21(5)(a)(ii)).

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 and the first students were admitted in January 2012.
- All of the students reside in residential accommodation provided by the proprietor.
- Students placed at the school have severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- There is currently one student on roll.
- There are no students on roll with an Education and Health Plan.
- All students are looked after by their local authorities.
- The school does not use alternative provision to extend its curriculum.
- The headteacher took up the post from April 2014, having worked at the school as a supply teacher from January 2014. There is one other member of staff; a part-time teacher employed through a supply agency.

School details

Unique reference number	136233
Inspection number	454764
DfE registration number	874/6036

This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

Type of school	Special school
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	8–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	1
Proprietor	CareTech Children's Services
Headteacher	Ruth Ashurst
Date of previous school inspection	11 December 2013
Annual fees	£19,236
Telephone number	01780 784109
Email address	sacrewelllodeschool@greenfields.uk.com

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