

Bloomfield School

Bloomfield Road, Tipton, DY4 9ER

Inspection dates

11 February 2015

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

- A material change inspection visit was made on 5 December 2014 at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to advise on the school's application to increase its maximum number on roll to 44 students and establish an annexe at the Dudley Port Training Centre, Station Drive, Tipton. At the start of that inspection visit, the proprietor requested an increase in the proposed maximum number on roll to 56 students.
- The material change was not recommended as not all of the independent school standards were likely to be met. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals for addressing these, which was evaluated and accepted by the DfE on 28 January 2015.
- This unannounced progress monitoring inspection visit was made at the request of the DfE to evaluate the school's progress in implementing its action plan.

Main findings

- The material change inspection visit found that the intended provision at the new premises for students who are ill was not likely to meet requirements. Although a suitable room had been identified and was equipped with a bed and washbasin with hot and cold running water, it was too far from a toilet facility. In response, the school drew up an action plan to provide the required facilities, including the provision of an additional toilet facility. This inspection visit found that the proposals have been fully implemented and that the provision now meets requirements.
- At the time of the material change inspection visit, internal doors were fitted with standard locks operated by keys on both sides. The proprietor stated his intention to replace these so that occupants could exit without requiring a key. This was judged particularly important as there are restraints fitted to windows and all ground floor rooms are fitted with electrically controlled external shutters. While the proprietor was implementing the college's health and safety policy robustly, not all related works had been completed at the new premises. The school's action plan proposals to address these shortcomings included fitting suitable locks to all internal doors, including storerooms. This inspection visit found that this work has now been completed. In addition, the fire exit doors have been fitted with electrically operated release mechanisms that are triggered by the fire alarm system.
- The school has responded promptly to the shortcomings identified in the material change inspection. All the independent school standards are now likely to be met. The Department has been recommended to approve the proprietor's application to establish an annexe at the Dudley Port Training Centre and to increase the school's maximum number on roll to 56 students.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements

Inspection team

Michael Best, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- Bloomfield School is a secondary day school in Tipton, near to the border of Dudley and Sandwell metropolitan boroughs. The school admits boys and girls from 11 to 16 years of age. There are currently 32 students on roll, most of whom are from White British families and are funded by six local authorities. Thirty students have a statement of special educational needs, primarily for complex behaviour as well as emotional and social difficulties.
- The school opened in April 2008 and is located in a two-storey modern building. Established by Educare Adolescent Services Ltd, the school is now owned by the Horizon Care and Education Group. The school's mission statement focuses on respect, caring, achievement and enjoyment in education. The school was last inspected in June 2012 when it met all the independent school regulations.
- With the consent of the Department for Education (DfE), the school has recently changed its name from Bloomfield College to Bloomfield School.

School details

Unique reference number	135518
Inspection number	463017
DfE registration number	333/6004

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 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	32
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Horizon Care and Education Group
Chair	Stephen Lambert
Headteacher	Andrew Harding
Date of previous school inspection	21 June 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£38,500
Telephone number	0121 520 9408
Fax number	0121 520 9408
Email address	bloomfieldhead@horizoncare.co.uk

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