

St Christopher's School

48 New Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3DT

Inspection dates

6 March 2015

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

- This inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.
- This inspection of the education provision at St Christopher's School was unannounced.
- A notice was served on this school by the Department for Education (DfE) on 4 December 2014, following the last inspection which took place on 14 to 16 October 2014. The school was judged to be inadequate overall, with inadequate leadership and management, behaviour and safety of pupils, and the early years provision, with 11 failures to meet the independent school standards. The school submitted an action plan to the DfE in December 2014 and this was judged to require improvement.
- The inspector was asked to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan and to check if the independent school standards are now met.
- This is the first monitoring visit since the school was last inspected in October 2014.

Main findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The inspection of October 2014, found that the school did not have an up-to-date safeguarding policy. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would revise its safeguarding policy. Scrutiny of the school's website confirms that this weakness has been rectified, and that due reference has been made to the current guidance issued by the Secretary of State, so that requirements are met.
- The inspection of October 2014, found that not all staff had received the most up-to-date training in safeguarding and safer recruitment. In its action plan, the school indicated that all the required training would be carried out within reasonable timescales. As a result of implementing its action plan, the school's records of registers of attendance at staff training events and completion certificates show that this shortfall has been rectified and that arrangements have regard for the current guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- At the previous inspection it was found that the school did not routinely report any safeguarding concerns to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. In its action plan, the school indicated that its procedure would be revised so that all safeguarding concerns would be routinely reported to the Board. As a result of implementing its action plan, requirements are now met.
- At the last inspection it was found that the single central register of checks on staff did not record the checks carried out on visiting teachers, volunteers and staff at the local sports centre. In its action plan, the school indicated that the register would be updated to include these groups. Examination of the register shows that the checks are now recorded, so that requirements are met.
- At the last inspection it was found that the school was unable to confirm if pre-employment medical checks had been carried out. In its action plan, the school indicated that senior leaders would ensure that the pre-employment medical checks were to be carried out. As a result of implementing the plan, requirements are now met.
- Previously, the implementation of the school's anti-bullying strategy did not give sufficient emphasis to the dangers of cyber bullying and the inappropriate use of social media and text

messaging. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would revise its anti-bullying policy documents and practice, form a partnership with a national organisation for promoting anti-bullying, and arrange appropriate workshops. These strategies have been implemented effectively, so that requirements are now met.

- Previously, the implementation of the school's health and safety policy was not effective, as fire risk assessments were incomplete and portable electrical appliance testing had not been carried out. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would commission an external fire risk assessment and carry out checks on portable electrical appliances. These actions have been fully implemented, so that requirements are met.
- At the last inspection it was found that the school had not correctly maintained the admission register. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would improve its systems to maintain the register. As a result of implementing its action plan, the register is now correctly maintained.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- The previous inspection found that the school was unable to confirm that pre-employment medical and history checks had been carried out. The school has now taken appropriate steps to ensure these checks are carried out, so that requirements are met.
- At the last inspection it was found that the single central register of staff checks did not record the checks carried out on visiting teachers, volunteers and staff at the local sports centre. All the appropriate pre-employment checks are now recorded.

Provision of information

- The previous inspection found that the school's website and school brochure did not contain the proprietor's name, information about the arrangements to support pupils with special educational needs and those for whom English is an additional language, and details of the safeguarding policy. The school has taken appropriate steps to address these omissions, so that requirements are now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

David Scott, Lead Inspector

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- St Christopher's School was founded in 1923 and provides non-selective education for up to 125 pupils aged from three to 11 years of age.
- The school is located close to the centre of Canterbury in a large Victorian semi-detached house.
- There are currently 108 boys and girls on roll, 19 of whom are in the early years provision.
- No pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan, and no children are looked after. A small number of pupils speak a language other than English at home.
- In their final year, most pupils take external tests and, if they are successful, these enable them to transfer to local grammar schools.
- The school makes use of a range of local facilities to deliver its sports and physical education curriculum.
- The school was last inspected in October 2014. Since that time there have been a number staffing changes.
- The school's aims are 'to give the pupils a broad, balanced and liberal education in order that they develop enquiring minds and confidence in themselves, so that they appreciate the importance of language, number, the aesthetic and physical areas of learning and develop competence in them'.

School details

Unique reference number	118997
Inspection number	463085
DfE registration number	886/6049

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	Primary school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	3 to 11 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	108
Number of part time pupils	5
Proprietor	David and Alison Evans
Chair	Carla Lorne
Headteacher	David Evans
Date of previous school inspection	14–16 October 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£8,595
Telephone number	01227 462960
Email address	enquiries@stchristopherscanterbury.org.uk

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