

Shapwick School

Shapwick Manor, Shapwick, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 9NJ

Inspection dates

30 June 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 integrated progress monitoring inspection of education and residential provision at Shapwick School was unannounced.
- A notice was served on the school by the Department for Education (DfE) on 26 August 2014 following the last welfare inspection which took place on 7 to 9 May 2014. The residential provision was judged adequate overall, but failed five of the national minimum standards. The school submitted an action plan in December 2014 to the DfE and this required improvement.
- A notice was served on the school by the DfE on 24 November 2014 following the last full education inspection which took place on 23 to 25 September 2014. The school was judged inadequate overall, with inadequate leadership and management, behaviour and safety, along with seven failures of the independent school standards. The school submitted an action plan in December 2014 to the DfE and this required improvement.
- The school received an unannounced integrated progress monitoring inspection of education and residential provision in February 2015. Following that inspection, the school was found to have not met one of the education standards and three of the national minimum standards for residential provision. The school submitted an action plan in May 2015 to the DfE which was accepted.
- For this second monitoring inspection, inspectors were asked to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan, as identified in May 2015, for students' education and residential provision and to check if the independent school regulations and national minimum standards for residential schools are now met.

Main findings

Quality of education provided

- The inspection of September 2014 found that the school did not provide an effective framework for teachers to track what students knew and could do from their starting points at the school, and teachers' planning was not good enough. At the last monitoring visit, in February 2014, it was found that a framework was in place to assess students' work regularly and thoroughly. However, it had not been in place long enough for teachers to use the data to robustly plan their lessons.
- Lesson planning has continued to improve. Teachers are using the school's common written format for planning lessons. Using this format has helped teachers to focus on what students need to learn in each lesson.
- The assessment of students' starting points has given the senior leaders a better understanding of where gaps in knowledge and understanding for individual students need to be addressed. More teachers are now using this information to inform their lesson planning and, as a consequence, students' achievement is improving. Inconsistencies in students' progress remain. Senior leaders are aware of this and are providing support for teachers, whilst at the same time holding all staff more firmly to account for students' achievement.
- This standard is now met.

National minimum standards for residential special schools

- At the time of the last monitoring inspection in February 2015, comprehensive individual health care plans had been completed for some, but not all, students. This standard remained unmet. Since then, leaders and managers have taken robust action to ensure that all students with a known medical need have a detailed health care plan. These plans guide and support staff in how to address students' individual needs, and the action to take in an emergency. Regular reviews of the plans ensure that they reflect the students' current needs. Consultation with parents has taken place and they have signed the plan in agreement. This standard is now met.
- While the vast majority of individual residential students' risk assessments had been completed at the time of the last monitoring inspection, the remainder were in draft form awaiting completion. This meant that this standard remained unmet. Leaders and managers have now ensured that, where needed, individual students' risk assessments are completed in order to identify the known risks and the measures that are in place to reduce the risk. These are regularly reviewed to identify the students' current needs, and to reflect any changes. This standard is now met.
- At the time of the last monitoring inspection, existing care staff had not attained a relevant minimum qualification at level 3, so that this standard remained unmet. In addition, newly appointed staff had not yet undertaken the training because they were still undergoing induction to the school. This monitoring inspection confirms that steady progress is now being made to ensure that all care staff obtain a relevant level 3 qualification or have suitable qualifications which demonstrate the same competences. The interim head of care is a qualified assessor and he has taken robust action to assist in the observation of staff practice in order to accelerate the process. There is good monitoring of the progress that individual staff are making towards the qualification. There is clear evidence that leaders and managers make regular contact with the external assessors to obtain updates of progression. This standard is now met.

The school now meets all The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements and the national minimum standards for residential provision.

Inspection team

Steffi Penny, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

David Kidner

Social Care Inspector

Information about this school

- The school is an independent special school for day and residential pupils.
- The school was last fully inspected in September 2014 and the last full inspection of the residential provision took place in May 2014.
- It operates on two sites, the preparatory school and the senior school, which are approximately five miles apart, near Bridgwater in Somerset.
- There are currently 145 pupils on roll from eight to 18 years of age. The preparatory school is the base for 39 boys and girls aged from eight to 13 years. Older students are based at the main school site in Shapwick. There are 79 male and female students in the age range 14 to 16 years and 27 in the sixth form. Sixth form students receive tutorial support from school staff, whilst all their course tuition is delivered through alternative provision at Bridgwater College.
- The 92 residential pupils are housed in five residential units on three sites.
- The main criterion for admission to the school is that pupils must have a diagnosis of dyslexia or other specific learning difficulty.
- Many different local authorities pay the fees of the 73 pupils who have a statement of special educational needs. Of these, 27 are placed by Somerset, the school's home local authority.
- The school is owned by Kedleston (UK), a company that manages other similar schools.
- The headteacher was appointed as an interim headteacher in September 2014 and was appointed as the substantive headteacher in June 2015.

School details

Unique reference number	123929
Social care unique reference number	SCO31481
Inspection number	461230
DfE registration number	933/6173

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.

The inspection of residential provision was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

Type of school	Residential and day special school for students with specific learning difficulties
School status	Independent residential special school
Age range of pupils	8–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	145
Of which, number of pupils in the sixth form	27
Number of part time pupils on roll	0
Number of boarders on roll	92
Proprietor	Kedleston Ltd
Chair	Paul Brosnan
Headteacher	Adrian Wylie
Date of previous school inspection	23–25 September 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£17,892 to £18,729 depending on age
Annual fees (boarders)	£23,439 to £26,916 depending on age and nature of the residential arrangements
Telephone number	01458 210384
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