

The Sholing Technology College

Middle Road, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8PH

Inspection dates

17–18 May 2016

Overall effectiveness

Full report

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is of the opinion that this school requires special measures because it is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

- Improve the effectiveness of governance, leadership and management by:
 - ensuring that the school's arrangements for maintaining a single

Inspection judgements

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

- Underachievement has become widespread in core areas of the curriculum. Standards of achievement and behaviour have fallen significantly since the last inspection and leaders have not delivered recommendations made at that time. Consequently, governors and leaders are not demonstrating the capacity to improve the school.
- The headteacher and deputy headteacher are passionate about improving standards, but they do not have a sufficiently accurate interpretation of the school's strengths and weaknesses. They have not tackled specific aspects of its work that are in urgent need of improvement. Development planning identifies suitable priorities but only lists actions and those responsible for reviewing their completion. There is little detail of specific expectations

- Governors have not challenged the headteacher and other senior leaders strongly enough over their judgement that the quality of teaching is 'good', given the very poor GCSE achievement over recent years.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. This is because, at the time of the inspection, accurate records of the checks on the appointment of staff and other adults who work with pupils had not been systematically recorded in the single central record. However, the school does have some strengths in the wider aspects of safeguarding: child protection policies and procedures are clear, useful and up to date. The member of staff designated as safeguarding lead is trained as a trainer and works in other schools across the area. New systems ensure that any incidents are managed promptly and the local authority and other outside agencies are involved appropriately.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

is inadequate

Personal development and welfare

- The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is inadequate.
- Attendance, although improving, is currently below the national average and has been for the last few years. School records clearly show that a pattern of decreasing attendance, as pupils move from Years 7 to 11, has been evident for some time. The average attendance of disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs remains well below their peers.
- The welfare needs of pupils are not being fully met. Some pupils told inspectors that they were unhappy with behaviours that they found

- The progress of pupils who have special educational needs or disability is cited as improving by leaders. However, too few teachers routinely plan learning activities which meet their needs. The provision does not help them make enough progress.
- Outcomes are weak in many subject areas. Not all teachers check pupils' learning regularly enough to provide effective support and guidance for any who lag behind. Inspectors' scrutiny of pupils' work indicates variable rates of progress, and a variable quality of work over time being produced in different subject areas.
- Senior leaders have rightly identified improving pupils' literacy as a key priority and effective use is made of the Year 7 catch-up premium funding. Independent reading is promoted through weekly timetabled sessions, but off-task behaviour means that the impact of this for many pupils is limited.

School details

Unique reference number	116451
Local authority	Southampton
Inspection number	10000749

This inspection was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was also deemed a section 5 inspection under the same Act.

Type of school	Secondary
School category	Community
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Information about this inspection

- Inspectors observed pupils in 33 lessons in order to gather evidence to contribute to inspectors' evaluation of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. In addition, walks around the school were conducted jointly with members of the school leadership team to observe what the school provides and pupils' learning. Inspectors also attended tutor periods, visited the library and observed pupils' conduct around the site at break and lunchtime.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, members of the governing body, senior leaders, teachers, support staff and several groups of pupils. A telephone conversation was held with a representative of the local authority.
- Inspectors scrutinised a range of school documentation including that relating to: policies; records of governors' meetings; strategic planning documents; safety; self-evaluation documents; pupil achievement; behaviour and attendance information and a wide range of pupils' work.
- Inspectors considered the views expressed in: 79 responses to Ofsted's online survey, Parent View; 3

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