

Southover Partnership School

288 Kingsbury Road, London NW9 9HA

Inspection date

8 July 2016

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

- The inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.
- The inspection was the school's first progress monitoring inspection since its emergency inspection in October 2015 and was conducted without notice.
- The school's action plan was accepted by the Department for Education in February 2016.
- The inspection focused on the school's progress in those parts of its action plan relating to Parts 3, 4 and 8 of the independent school standards.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, deputy headteachers and senior administrator, and spoke with pupils throughout the inspection. The premises at all three sites were inspected and a range of relevant documentation was scrutinised.

Main findings

Welfare, health and safety

- All previously failed standards in this part are now met.
- The previous inspection identified failings in relation to the school's safeguarding policy and recruitment processes. This inspection found the school's safeguarding and recruitment procedures to be effective. The school's safeguarding policy, available online and last reviewed in April 2016, takes account of the latest statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State. It clearly explains the procedure staff, parents or others should follow if they wish to make an allegation against the headteacher. There is now a clear, recorded risk assessment process to formally assess the suitability of applicants who have a criminal conviction. The date on which checks are made to ensure that staff have the relevant qualifications is now recorded on the school's single central register of vetting checks. Certificates were scrutinised confirming enhanced safeguarding training in May 2016 for all of the school's designated safeguarding leaders, and safeguarding training in April 2016 for all other staff members. In October 2015, the behaviour policy did not include enough information about the sanctions adopted in the event of pupils' misbehaviour. The updated policy now includes clear information about these sanctions, including the withdrawal of privileges and 'community service'.
- The previous inspection found that the health and safety policy had not been updated to reflect staffing changes. The inspector was also unable to confirm that first aid training had been successfully completed as certificates were not available. This inspection found the health and safety and first aid policies meet requirements. Certificates for the many trained first aiders were also available and checked.
- Some fire safety information was unavailable during the previous inspection; for example the records of fire drills at the Kingsbury Manor site and the annual certification of fire safety compliance. At this inspection, all documentation relating to fire safety at all three sites was scrutinised, including fire drill logs for all sites and fire safety compliance certification.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- The single central register of vetting checks now meets all requirements.

Leadership and management

- The school's leaders have worked quickly and effectively to remedy the issues identified in October 2015. Leaders have worked especially hard to ensure that safeguarding and recruitment processes meet all requirements. Termly checks of adherence to the independent school standards at each site are also proving effective in ensuring compliance. As a result, all standards relating to the leadership and management of the school, including in relation to pupils' well-being, are now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Information about this school

- The Southover Partnership School is an independent day school for boys and girls aged eight to 19 with social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
- The school operates across three sites in the London boroughs of Brent, Barnet and Enfield.
- All 36 pupils on roll are of secondary school age and are placed by their local authorities.
- All pupils have an education, health and care plan, or statement of special educational needs, for their social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Most have additional conditions such as autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- The school's last inspection was an emergency inspection in October 2015 when standards relating to health and safety, safeguarding and leadership and management were unmet. The school's last full inspection was in January 2015 when the school was judged to be good.
- The school meets requirements on the publication of specified information on its website.

School details

Unique reference number	135373
Inspection number	10017864
DfE registration number	304/6121

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 pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	8–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	36
Of which, number of pupils in the sixth form	6
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Carol Frankl
Headteacher	Dayo Okunlola
Date of previous school inspection	8 October 2015
Annual fees (day pupils)	£40,800–£81,776
Telephone number	020 8446 0300
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Email address	info@southoverpartnership.com

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