

# Tumblewood Community School

The Laurels, 4 Hawkeridge Road, Heywood, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4LF

**Inspection dates**

1 November 2017

**Overall outcome**

**The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

#### *Paragraph 7–7(b)*

- At the time of the emergency inspection in January 2017, this standard was not met as the proprietors and school leaders had not ensured that a robust culture of safeguarding had been developed in the school. There were shortcomings in relation to record-keeping, staff training and the checks made on the suitability of staff.
- The culture of safeguarding has improved since January 2017. Record-keeping is more thorough and pupils' files now contain better-quality information about the school's work with external agencies, including the local authority. Chronologies of incidents and records of contact with external agencies are now more securely and rigorously maintained. However, some pupils who live onsite in the children's home do not attend school as regularly as they should, which has a negative impact on their progress.
- Staff training is now more thorough and better recorded than it was in the past. All staff now routinely receive part 1 of the latest guidance from the Secretary of State, 'Keeping children safe in education', 2016. Staff have undertaken a wide range of up-to-date training on issues such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, radicalisation and other important issues in relation to child protection and safeguarding.
- The school's safeguarding policy is available on the website and pays due regard to the latest guidance.
- Leaders have ensured that the standard in this paragraph is now met.

### Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

#### *Paragraph 18(2), 18(2)(b), 21(1), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(b)*

- The inspection in January 2017 found that the school was not checking whether teachers were subject to prohibition or interim prohibition orders. In addition, information about the checks made on staff members' identity and right to work in the United Kingdom was not recorded on the single central register in line with the requirements of the independent school standards.
- All teachers have now been checked to see if they are subject to a prohibition order. None are and this is now recorded in the single central register. The dates when staff

members' identity and right to work in the United Kingdom were checked are now clearly recorded in the single central register.

- Leaders have ensured that the standards in these paragraphs are now met.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

### *Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)*

- At the time of the emergency inspection in January 2017, the proprietors and school leaders had not ensured that all the independent school standards were consistently met. This led to pupils being exposed to unnecessary risk.
- The school's initial action plan to address the unmet standards from January 2017 was not acceptable. The revised action plan, however, is much stronger. It clearly addresses the key issues and sets out realistic timescales and evaluation criteria. Lines of accountability are also clear. The revised action plan is now a useful working document.
- The substantive headteacher returned from maternity leave at the end of the summer term 2017, having not been present at the time of the emergency inspection. She demonstrates a good knowledge of the independent school standards.
- The proprietors recognised after the previous inspection that the processes to ensure that the school consistently meets the independent school standards needed to be more robust. To that end, they appointed an experienced compliance officer to oversee aspects of this process. This has added capacity to the management of the school and brought greater rigour to the monitoring of the school's compliance with the standards.
- Leaders have ensured that the standard in this paragraph is now met.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

### The school now meets the following independent school standards

- The proprietor must ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7, 7(a), 7(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that no member of staff carries out work, or intends to carry out work, at the school in contravention of a prohibition order, an interim prohibition order, or any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act, or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in either such direction (paragraph 18(2), 18(2)(b)).
- The proprietor keeps a register which shows in relation to each member of staff ("S") appointed on or after 1st May 2007, whether
  - S's identity was checked and a check of S's right to work in the United Kingdom was made, including the date on which such check was completed or the certificate obtained
  - in relation to each member of staff ("S"), whether a check was made to establish whether S is subject to a prohibition order or an interim prohibition order, including the date on which such check was completed (paragraph 21(1), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(b)).
- The proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently; fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)).

## School details

Unique reference number	132775
DfE registration number	865/6034
Inspection number	10038368

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Special school
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	9 to 18
Gender of pupils	Girls
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	9
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	0
Number of part-time pupils	1
Proprietor	Sue Hortop and John Kearney
Headteacher	Jennifer McMillan
Annual fees (day pupils)	£64,000
Telephone number	01373 824466
Website	<a href="http://www.tumblewood.org">www.tumblewood.org</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:jennifer.mcmillan@tumblewood.org">jennifer.mcmillan@tumblewood.org</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	1–3 December 2015

## Information about this school

- Tumblewood Community School is a small school that caters for girls with significant social, emotional and mental health problems. Nearly all have education, health and care plans.
- The proprietors are responsible for the governance of the school.
- The school's previous standard inspection took place in December 2015. The school had an emergency inspection in January 2017.

- The school currently uses two alternative providers, Larkrise Community Farm and The Springfields Academy.

## Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous inspection.
- The inspection was conducted without notice.
- This was the school's first progress monitoring inspection since the emergency inspection that took place in January 2017.
- The school's action plan was not accepted by the Department for Education in April 2017. During the inspection, the lead inspector scrutinised the school's revised action plan.
- During the inspection, the inspector held discussions with the headteacher, the proprietors and other staff. He also visited classrooms to observe pupils learning.
- The inspector examined a wide range of the school's documents, particularly those related to safeguarding and safer recruitment. He checked the single central register that records the pre-employment checks carried out on teachers and other staff.

## Inspection team

Stephen Lee, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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