

# Heathside Preparatory School

16 New End, Hampstead, London NW3 1JA

## Inspection dates

6 June 2018

## Context of the inspection

Ofsted conducted this inspection following receipt of information expressing concerns over boarding practice within the school. The inspection was conducted under Section 87 of the Children Act 1989.

## Summary of concerns

Management of the boarding provision is disorganised and unsafe. The head of boarding left the school in May 2018. The headteacher is currently working in partnership with a new interim head of boarding. The plan is for the interim head of boarding to assume management responsibility in September 2018. Neither staff member has any prior experience of managing a boarding provision.

The boarding provision lacks an established rota to evidence the specific responsibilities of staff members on particular evenings. Two boarders reported no supervision in the girls section of the boarding house on one occasion in May 2018. These concerns led to these boarders feeling confused and unsafe.

Managers do not follow safeguarding procedures appropriately. A recent allegation by a boarder was internally investigated without the independent oversight of the designated officer from the local authority. The school's record of this incident and other complaints lacked detail, and in some cases there was no formal record at all.

Staff are fearful of reporting concerns to managers. The school does not have a whistleblowing policy that is present on the school's website and known to teachers. Records of management meetings were not accessible during this inspection.

Despite the concerns, boarders indicate that they are happy and benefit from the experience. One boarder commented, 'I really like it here, there is lots to do.' Some parents, who point to the progress made by the children, echo this feedback. However, they also comment on the confusion resulting from the departure of the head of boarding.

## **National minimum standards**

**The school must meet the following national minimum standards for boarding schools:**

- 11.1 The school ensures 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.
- 13.4 The school's leadership and management consistently fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the standards are met.
- 13.5 The school's leadership and management and governance actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.
- 13.7 The school follows and maintains the policies and documents described in Appendix 1.
- 13.8 The records specified in Appendix 2 are maintained and monitored by the school and action taken as appropriate.
- 18.2 The school's written record of complaints identifies those complaints relating to boarding provision, and action taken by the school as a result of those complaints (regardless of whether they are upheld).

## Boarding school details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	100078
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	1280475
<b>DfE registration number</b>	2026360

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

<b>Type of school</b>	Boarding school
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	15
<b>Gender of boarders</b>	Male and female
<b>Age range of boarders</b>	10 to 15
<b>Headteacher</b>	Melissa Remus Elliot
<b>Date of previous boarding inspection</b>	n/a
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 3058 4011
<b>Email address</b>	info@heathsideprep.co.uk
<b>Inspection team</b>	

Barnaby Dowell	Lead social care inspector
Lee Kirwin	Social care inspector

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