

# King Edwin School

Mill Lane, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 1LG

**Inspection dates**

6 February 2019

**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*

- School leaders have ensured that all the required safeguarding checks carried out on staff employed at the school have been accurately and diligently recorded on the single central record.
- The school's safeguarding policy meets requirements and makes reference to current legislation. An incorrect policy was initially displayed on the school website. However, an updated and compliant policy was in place in school. School leaders ensured that the updated policy was displayed on the website before the end of the inspection.
- Staff safeguarding training is updated regularly by the designated lead for safeguarding.
- Pupils spoken to commented that school 'feels like being part of happy family', evidencing how safe and secure staff and leaders make them feel.
- The leadership team has ensured that this standard remains met.

#### *Paragraph 9*

- The school introduced a positive approach to managing pupils' behaviour 15 months ago. This has taken time to 'bed in' but senior leaders have gathered evidence which shows the positive impact of the scheme in reducing the number of behavioural incidents.
- All staff are trained in restraining pupils and receive regular updates to ensure that their practice is safe and up to date. Training records show that staff use of complex holds has reduced to the extent that extra training for the use of these holds is no longer undertaken. This is further evidence of the successful impact of the school's positive approach to behaviour management.
- School staff keep well-organised and carefully documented records of all incidents of difficult behaviour. All incidents, along with the outcomes, are recorded in the school's behaviour log. Recording is effective and consistent due to effective staff training. Incidents which result in the need for physical restraint are also logged in the school's bound record book.

- Discussion with pupils on how school helps them to manage their behaviour shows that pupils use a range of strategies, including leaving the classroom and taking themselves to a 'chill-out' space where they can 'cool down', to gain control of their emotions. They also commented that staff may suggest they need to go and take time out.
- Records show that pupils' behaviour improves as they settle into the routines of school and begin to develop strategies for effectively managing their behaviour. Leaders explained that pupils could enter the two chill-out rooms available when in crisis. However, most choose to go to a further larger room. Leaders and pupils confirmed that no rooms are locked. Checks made by the local authority and the lead inspector confirmed that pupils are free to leave rooms when they wish.
- The behaviour scheme is built on rewards. Therefore, there are few sanctions other than short periods of exclusion. These are clearly recorded.
- The leadership team has ensured that this standard remains met.

#### *Paragraph 11*

- The school's health and safety policy covers many different areas, including fire safety records. The caretaker ensures that the building is maintained to a high specification. Regular checks are carried out on the premises, for example checks are carried out on the temperature of the water for washing hands in the toilets and on the storage of cleaning materials.
- Fire safety checks are carried out daily and the school has acted upon minor actions identified in an audit carried out by the fire brigade. This has ensured that the school has a clear fire evacuation policy and procedures.
- The leadership team has ensured that this standard remains met.

#### *Paragraph 14*

- At the time of the inspection, most of the secondary school pupils were undertaking Duke of Edinburgh's Award outdoor trips so it was not possible to visit classrooms to check on pupil-to-staffing ratios.
- School timetables showed that staff are deployed in each classroom and teaching staff move between classrooms to minimise disruption.
- A walk around the primary section of the school was carried by the lead inspector and the assistant principal. This showed that pupil-staff ratios were effective at the time of the inspection. This was evidenced by the calm and purposeful atmosphere, both inside and outside the classrooms. These levels matched those described in school timetables.
- Information provided by the school showed that serious behavioural incidents have fallen over time – once again an indication of effective staffing arrangements.

#### *Paragraph 16*

- The school has put in place a risk assessment policy which clearly explains the correct procedure to be carried out when writing risk assessments.
- A sample of risk assessments analysed during the inspection showed that staff adhered to the requirements of the school's risk assessment policy well. For example,

risk assessments for school trips identified clearly the risks within the location and took into account the needs of individual pupils.

- Day-to-day risk assessments are also in place for individual pupils. These identify pupils' needs and possible situations which may trigger difficult behaviour. They include possible avoidance actions and possible distractions and de-escalation techniques that staff may use. None suggested that pupils should be put in rooms from which they had no clear exit.
- Senior leaders have ensured that the independent school standards have been met.

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

##### *Paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21*

- Senior leaders have ensured that all safeguarding requirements described in these standards have been met.

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

##### *Paragraph 32*

- Senior leaders have ensured that the independent school standards requested to be checked by the Department of Education (DfE) remain met. Policies and procedures are reviewed and adjusted on a regular basis. Pupils' individual needs and behaviour are closely monitored.
- Leaders ensure that safeguarding pupils is recognised as a key priority by staff within the school. Training is regularly updated.
- Senior leaders ensure that health and safety is given a high priority within school. Staff review and adapt the policies and procedures, making appropriate changes in line with the changing requirements of the school population. Staffing levels are in line with the needs of the vulnerable pupils who attend school.

## **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. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

## School details

Unique reference number	140272
DfE registration number	808/6004
Inspection number	10085697

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	Other independent school
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	6 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	45
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	0
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Zak McIlhargey
Headteacher	Mrs Lorna McLean
Annual fees (day pupils)	£39,995
Telephone number	01642 366 610
Website	<a href="http://kingedwinschool.zohosites.com">http://kingedwinschool.zohosites.com</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:admin@ne.sparkofgenius.com">admin@ne.sparkofgenius.com</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	19–21 September 2017

### Information about this school

- Since the last inspection, the school has appointed a governing body.
- The school received a standard inspection in September 2017.
- The school operates on one site. Some pupils attend alternative provision at Phoenix Training and Sowing Seeds Ministries, which are both in the locality of the school.
- The school has a collection of animals, including rabbits, reptiles, alpacas, goats and a pony.

## Information about this inspection

- An emergency inspection was requested by the DfE as a result of a complaint.
- The inspection was carried out without notice to the school.
- The inspector held discussions with pupils, the principal and vice-principal, the chair of governors and a parent governor, a representative from the local authority and the proprietor.
- The inspector analysed a range of school documentation, including the health and safety policy, risk assessments, the behaviour policy and all of the school's records of behavioural incidents.
- The inspector also carried out a tour of the school with the deputy principal, observing pupils' behaviour and staff numbers.

## Inspection team

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Marian Thomas, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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