

# Riverside Education

2 Riverside Drive, Stechford, Birmingham, West Midlands B33 9BF

**Inspection date**

2 April 2019

**Overall outcome**

**The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented.**

## Main inspection findings

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

#### *Paragraphs 7, 7(a) and 7(b)*

- The school's safeguarding policy meets current government requirements and it is implemented effectively. The guidance is available to parents, carers and others via the school's website. Leaders aim to adopt the school's safeguarding policy across both the Erdington and Stechford school sites to ensure consistency of safeguarding practice.
- All staff have undergone appropriate child protection and 'Prevent' duty training to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The headteacher and other senior leaders have undergone safer recruitment training as required. At least one leader who has undergone such training is involved in interviews to employ staff.

#### *Paragraphs 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c) and 10*

- Appropriate behaviour and anti-bullying policies are in place, and frameworks are suitably implemented. Consequently, pupils are free from intimidation and harassment. On the day of the inspection, pupils were well behaved, and the learning environment was positive, calm and orderly.

#### *Paragraph 11*

- The school has produced suitable health and safety policies and they are implemented effectively in school and at the former alternative provider site.
- Satisfactory arrangements are in place to ensure portable electrical appliances are subject to regular inspection by a competent person. Appropriate health and safety audits are conducted to ensure that staff and pupils are kept safe and secure.

#### *Paragraph 12*

- Fire safety arrangements meet requirements. Adequate fire-risk assessments are conducted in school and at the site of the former alternative provider. Fire safety equipment is subject to regular inspection and maintenance. Competent persons have

been appointed to assist staff to take preventative and protective measures in the event of an evacuation of buildings.

*Paragraph 13*

- There are sufficient first aiders, with the appropriate level of training, to administer first aid in line with the school's first aid policy at both educational sites.

*Paragraph 14*

- The pupil-to-teacher ratio is low and this ensures that pupils are well supervised at all times. All staff are deployed effectively and they manage pupils' behaviour well indoors and outside.

*Paragraphs 16, 16(a) and 16(b)*

- Staff carry out satisfactory risk assessments for the premises, classroom and workshop activities and trips off site. This ensures that pupils are always kept safe and secure.
- Classrooms and communal areas are free from potential hazards. Leaders take appropriate action to reduce risks and to ensure pupils' welfare and safety.
- The proprietors have ensured that all standards for this part are likely to be met.

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

*Paragraphs 18(2), 18(2)(a), 18(2)(b), 18(2)(c), 18(2)(c)(i), 18(2)(c)(ii), 18(2)(c)(iii), 18(2)(c)(iv), 18(2)(d), 18(2)(e) and 18(3)*

- All of the required recruitment and staff vetting checks are carried out on all staff and others who work with pupils in both settings. For example, identity, qualification, criminal record, medical fitness and right to work in the United Kingdom checks are completed in accordance with government requirements.
- Supply staff from employment agencies are not used.

*Paragraphs 20(6), 20(6)(a), 20(6)(a)(i), 20(6)(a)(ii), 20(6)(b), 20(6)(b)(i), 20(6)(b)(ii), 20(6)(b)(iii) and 20(6)(c)*

- All of the required vetting checks have been carried out on members of the proprietorial body to confirm their suitability to work with children. None is barred or prohibited from working in a school.

*Paragraphs 21(1), 21(2), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(ii), 21(3)(a)(iii), 21(3)(a)(iv), 21(3)(a)(v), 21(3)(a)(vi), 21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(a)(viii), 21(3)(b) and 21(6)*

- Two single central registers are in place, one in the school and one at the former alternative education provider's premises. Both registers contain an up-to-date record of all the checks undertaken.
- The proprietors have ensured that the standards for this part are met.

## Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b) and 23(1)(c),*

- The premises and accommodation on both sites are of a good standard. There are sufficient classrooms, specialist workshops, withdrawal rooms and communal areas to accommodate 100 pupils on the two sites.
- There are sufficient toilet and washing facilities for the proposed number on roll.
- Physical education takes place at a local leisure facility, where pupils have access to suitable changing accommodation and showers.

*Paragraphs 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(2), 28(2), 28(2)(a) and 28(2)(b)*

- Satisfactory medical facilities are provided at the Stechford and Erdington sites.

*Paragraphs 25, 26, 27, 27(a) and 27(b)*

- The premises and accommodation are clean, tidy and well maintained. They are in good decorative order. Furniture and fittings are of good quality. Facilities ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils.
- The proprietor has ensured that suitable lighting, acoustic conditions and heating are provided in all of the premises.

*Paragraphs 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c) and 28(1)(d)*

- Suitable drinking water facilities are provided on both sites. Drinking water is appropriately labelled.
- All washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water. Hot water does not pose a scalding risk.

*Paragraphs 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)*

- There is adequate outdoor space on the Stechford and Erdington sites for play and recreation.
- The proprietors have ensured that the standards for this part are likely to be met.

## Part 6. Provision of information

*Paragraphs 32(1) and 32(1)(c)*

- The school has ensured that the safeguarding policy is published on the school's website. It is proposed that both settings will adopt the policy. The aim is to have one safeguarding policy on one website from the start of September 2019, if the Department for Education accepts the material change.
- The proprietors have ensured that the standards for this part are likely to be met.

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

*Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)*

- The proprietors demonstrate a good understanding of the independent school standards; therefore, regulatory requirements are likely to be met consistently.

- The curriculum and teaching aim to promote pupils' well-being actively. Safeguarding arrangements keep pupils safe from harm.
- The proprietors fulfil their Equality Act 2010 responsibilities.
- The proprietors have ensured that standards for this part are likely to be met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

## School details

Unique reference number	142338
DfE registration number	330/6019
Inspection number	10100512

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Day school
School status	Independent school
Proprietors	Anthony Copeland and Abide Zenenga
Chair	Anthony McGuire
Headteacher	Abide Zenenga
Annual fees (day pupils)	Minimum £1,000 per term. Fees vary according to the provision provided for each pupil.
Telephone number	0121 678 2942
Website	<a href="http://www.riversideeducation.co.uk">www.riversideeducation.co.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:info@riversideeducation.co.uk">info@riversideeducation.co.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	6–8 June 2017

## Pupils

	<b>School's current position</b>	<b>School's proposal</b>	<b>Inspector's recommendation</b>
Age range of pupils	14 to 19	14 to 19	14 to 19
Number of pupils on the school roll	59	100	100

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	59	100
Number of part-time pupils	0	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	50	90
Of which, number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	50	90
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	50	90

## Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	26	46
Number of part-time teaching staff	3	3
Number of staff in the welfare provision	3	5

## Information about this school

- Riverside Education provides full-time education for its pupils. All of the pupils are registered at the school and are on the school's roll.
- In September 2018, the proprietors took over the running of a private alternative education provider in Erdington, Birmingham that could no longer operate because

the company went into liquidation. All of the pupils in the alternative provision are on the roll of local secondary schools. When the provider could no longer operate, a decision was made, with Birmingham City Council, for Riverside Education to take responsibility for educating these pupils so that their courses were not abandoned and their education could continue. None of the pupils is registered with Riverside Education and none is on Riverside Education's roll. The name of the former alternative provider has been changed to Riverside Vocational College. The proprietors are responsible for the quality of education at Riverside Education and Riverside Vocational College.

- Riverside Education does not use other alternative providers.
- The proprietors plan to educate pupils on two sites: the existing one in Stechford, Birmingham and the site of the former alternative provider in Erdington, Birmingham. They aim to register the use of both sites and incorporate existing Erdington pupils onto the school's roll, thereby increasing the number on roll but not the age range.
- The school admits pupils into Years 9 to 13. The vast majority of pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Many have social, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and most cannot cope in a mainstream school.
- The school's previous standard inspection was in June 2017.



## Information about this inspection

- Ofsted conducted the inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE). The school applied for a material change to its registration to increase the number of pupils on roll from 60 to 100. The material change also included the registration of new premises in Erdington, Birmingham, in addition to its existing premises in Stechford, Birmingham, to provide more work-placed learning for pupils aged 14 to 19 years.
- The DfE specified that this inspection should check the school's safeguarding policy and its implementation, Part 3 Welfare, health and safety of pupils, and check that the school's safeguarding policy is published on the school's website, or is otherwise made available, Part 6 Provision of information. All Part 5 independent school standards, relating to premises and accommodation, were evaluated to check compliance with regulatory requirements.
- This was the school's second material change inspection. Its first was in October 2017.
- It is proposed that the material change will widen the range of vocational and work-based learning for an increased number of pupils.
- Meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, school improvement partner, governors and the person in charge of the single central record. A tour of both school sites was undertaken. A wide range of documentation was scrutinised. The inspector evaluated the effectiveness of the school's welfare, health and safety arrangements, including the impact of safeguarding procedures. The quality of the premises and accommodation on both school sites was evaluated to ensure that the school could accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

## Inspection team

David Rzeknik, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

### **Parent View**

You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk), or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

© Crown copyright 2019