

# Birtenshaw School, Merseyside

82 Higher Lane, Liverpool, Merseyside L9 7AB

## Inspection dates

22 May 2019

### Overall outcome

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

## Main inspection findings

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

#### *Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b), 32(1), 32(1)(c)*

- The comprehensive safeguarding policy takes full account of the current legislation and guidelines. The policy is available from the school's website.
- All staff receive appropriate training. Regular updates keep their knowledge fresh so that they know how to keep pupils safe. Records of training are appropriate and thorough.

#### *Paragraphs 11, 12, 14, 16(a), 16(b)*

- The school was built in 2018 with the intention of eventually admitting 80 pupils. The school has enough classrooms and shared areas for the planned increase in numbers. A suitable health and safety policy is in place. It complies with all relevant requirements. Leaders have a rolling programme of maintenance to identify and remedy any issues with the site. The school is tidy, safe and well-kept. All areas are spotless.
- The proprietor has ensured that fire safety procedures are compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Leaders complete annual risk assessments. Any fire precautions needed to safeguard pupils and adults are implemented. Systematic checks of the site and fire evacuation practices are conducted regularly. All pupils have an evacuation plan, so they know what action to take in the event of a fire.
- The proprietor has made sure that there are plenty of staff to supervise pupils. Supervision is based on each pupil's needs and leaders plan to maintain this level of support if numbers of pupils increase.
- A written risk assessment policy is in place. This outlines the detailed process to be taken for all risk assessments. Leaders are alert to risk and use an appropriate and

consistent risk assessment approach.

- Detailed risk assessments are in place for all classrooms and shared areas, and for all educational and extra-curricular activities. Leaders use these risk assessments very effectively to identify hazards and to plan and take suitable action to mitigate potential risks. Any new activity is risk assessed so that pupils are kept safe.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

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

*Paragraphs 18(2), 18(2)(a), 18(2)(b), 18(2)(c), 18(2)(d), 18(3), 20(6)(a), 20(6)(b), 20(6)(c), 21(1), 21(2), 21(3), 21(4)*

- The single central record is fully compliant.
- Appropriate checks have been carried out for all members of staff. Prohibition checks have been completed, as appropriate.
- The proprietor has undergone appropriate checks.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

#### Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraph 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b), 23(1)(c)*

- There are plenty of toilets which are clean and accessible. Each toilet, including washing facilities, is for single use only and can be locked from the inside. All toilets are suitable for disabled use.
- Toilets and washbasin facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the anticipated increase in the number of pupils on roll.
- Sufficient showers and changing facilities are available for all pupils to use. These facilities are near to the swimming pool.

*Paragraph 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(1)(c), 24(2)*

- A spacious medical room is situated in the centre of the school. It includes a shower and wash basin and is very near to a toilet. It contains a first aid kit.

*Paragraph 25, 26, 27, 27(a), 27(b)*

- Accommodation throughout the school is of a very high standard. The acoustics and lighting of the rooms are suitable. All teaching rooms are bright and have a good source of natural light. Each classroom leads directly onto a safe outdoor area. The exterior lighting is of a high standard. Leaders are proud of the purpose-built school which was planned, in detail, to meet the needs of the pupils.

*Paragraph 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 28(2), 28(2)(a), 28(2)(b)*

- Drinking water is readily available for pupils. All water supplied is suitable to drink.

*Paragraph 29(1), 29(1)(a), 29(1)(b)*

- Pupils can play in the spacious outdoor areas. Pupils use the plentiful outdoor equipment such as the climbing frame. The outdoor space is suitable for the planned increase in the number of pupils.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

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

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

- Leaders know the strengths of the school and what action to take to improve it further. The school improvement plan includes the correct areas for improvement. Leaders are working hard to meet the recommendations left from the previous full inspection. For example, staff contribute to the evaluation of the school's effectiveness and in the school's improvement plans.
- Leaders demonstrate the knowledge and experience needed to accommodate the planned increase in the number of pupils. Leaders are well-organised and are ready to welcome increased numbers of pupils.
- Leaders fulfil their responsibilities to promote the well-being of pupils.
- All the independent school standards in this part are 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	145182
DfE registration number	341/6011
Inspection number	10100751

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	Other independent special school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Birtenshaw
Chair	Kathryn Brown
Headteacher	Julie Barnes
Annual fees (day pupils)	£56,940 to £85,644
Telephone number	01204 304230
Website	<a href="http://www.birtenshaw.org.uk">www.birtenshaw.org.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:julie.barnes@birtenshaw.org.uk">julie.barnes@birtenshaw.org.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	13–15 November 2018

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	3 to 19	3 to 19	3 to 19
Number of pupils on the school roll	34	80	80

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	34	80
Number of part-time pupils	1	1
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	34	80
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	34	80
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	34	80

## Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	6	7
Number of part-time teaching staff	N/A	N/A

## Information about this school

- Birtenshaw School, Merseyside is part of Birtenshaw, a charitable organisation.
- It is an independent special school registered for 50 pupils from ages three to 19.
- The school was inspected in November 2018.
- Currently, there are 34 pupils on roll aged from four to 11 and one part-time pupil aged 17 years. Pupils have moderate to severe learning disabilities and/or complex health needs. Many pupils have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.
- All pupils have an education, health and care plan.
- The school is in Liverpool and pupils are placed at Birtenshaw by four local authorities.
- The school does not use alternative provision.

## Information about this inspection

- This was the first material change inspection.
- This inspection was commissioned in relation to the school's request to increase the number of pupils admitted to the school from 50 to 80.
- During the inspection, documents and policies were scrutinised, including documents relating to safeguarding. The inspector toured the accommodation and held discussions with the headteacher.

## Inspection team

Eileen Mulgrew, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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