

SC040955

Askham Bryan College Governing Body

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this further education college with residential accommodation

Askham Bryan College is a specialist land-based college with six centres across the north of England. The two residential campuses, which offer accommodation to 16- and 17-year-olds as well as over-18s, are in the villages of Askham Bryan and Newton Rigg. The on-site facilities include a wildlife and conservation park, equestrian centre, engineering workshops and farms.

The college offers students entry-level courses, apprenticeships and diplomas at different levels through to BSc degrees with honours. There is a large range of courses available, including agriculture, animal management, arboriculture, countryside and the environment, engineering, equine, horticulture, sport and uniformed public services.

Inspection date: 12 June 2019

This monitoring visit

Inspectors from the further education and skills and social care remits carried out a one-day visit to the college as a result of information that Ofsted received. Following this visit, a separate further education and skills report was completed.

The leaders, managers and staff team work together to ensure the safety and well-being of learners in residential accommodation. Students feel safe living on the campus due to the practical safeguarding arrangements. This includes the use of individual key fobs so students can only gain access to their own residential floor and room. These systems also provide staff with information about students' whereabouts.

The head warden and wardening team provide both practical and emotional support. Students feel safe knowing that wardens and security staff patrol the site at night.

Students are aware of their curfew time and feel safe due to the small size of the campus. The wardens also provide students with someone to speak to out of college hours.

There is a clear behaviour management policy that students respect and follow. This outlines clear expectations about standards of behaviour. Achievements are also recognised by the students gaining rewards, such as extra horse-riding lessons.

The college recognised a rise in emotional and mental health problems for this age group. This is because for some, this is the first time they have stayed away from home. A well-being coordinator is available to signpost students to receive additional emotional support. The use of contracted counsellors also means that students get a timely response at times of crisis. Many students spoke about teaching staff having an open-door policy if they need extra help with their coursework.

Date of last inspection: 28 to 30 January 2019

Information about this inspection

Using the 'Social care common inspection framework', this inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989 to monitor the service, and to consider how well it complies with the national minimum standards.

Further education college with residential accommodation details

Social care unique reference number: SC040955

Acting CEO: Dr Tim Whitaker

Inspectors

Tracey Mace-Akroyd, HMI

Tina Ruffles, social care inspector

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