

Fairfield House School

Inspection dates

9 July 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, 7(a), 7(b), 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- During the progress monitoring inspection in January 2019, the school's safeguarding policy was not fit for purpose. This was because the school's published policy did not fully reflect the Secretary of State's guidance published in September 2018. The policy did not include the required details about the school's approach to any instances of peer-on-peer abuse, including sexting. This meant that pupils were not as safe as they could be.
- The action plan evaluation of May 2019 judged that the standards were likely to be met if the school's proposed actions were implemented. This was because leaders submitted an updated version of the safeguarding policy which reflected the most recent government guidance.
- The school's safeguarding policy, which is available on the school website, is up to date and refers to current guidance issued by the Secretary of State. An appropriate section in the policy details leaders' approach to peer-on-peer abuse, which includes sexting.
- There is a strong culture of safeguarding. It is seen as everyone's responsibility, including that of the pupils.
- Recruitment processes are thorough. New staff receive a systematic introduction to the routines and processes in the school. They shadow an existing teacher, before carrying out their own responsibilities. In this way, pupils get to know the new staff and feel safe with them.
- Leaders keep up to date with safeguarding issues through briefings from the local authority and external bodies. Leaders share these updates with staff during monthly staff meetings and supervision meetings. Daily meetings between the residential staff and school staff discuss any potential safeguarding issues, so that everyone knows what action may be needed to keep pupils safe.
- This standard is now met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 25

- At the progress monitoring inspection in January 2019, this standard was not met because ongoing maintenance requirements at the main school site had not been completed well enough. This meant that there were a variety of risks to the pupils. Additionally, the inspector identified that the school's systems for following up maintenance work did not work as well as they should.
- The action plan evaluation of May 2019 judged that the standards were likely to be met if the school's proposed actions were implemented. The plan included relevant actions and timescales. Leaders submitted photographic evidence to show where repairs had been completed.
- All risks posed by incomplete maintenance work have been eliminated. This is because leaders have remedied all the issues identified at the progress monitoring inspection in January 2019.
- Doorway threshold plates are in place to close the gaps across door thresholds and flooring. The damaged floor and wooden edging strip are repaired and fixed in place.
- The toilet wall tiles and the broken fingerguard on the toilet door are repaired. Likewise, the toilet adjacent to the medical room is fixed and is functional. The extractor fan in the toilet has been resealed and secured.
- Leaders have replaced the flooring in the small corridor next to the medical room.
- Three maintenance officers are employed by the proprietor to remedy systematically any maintenance issues. Systems to identify and follow up any identified maintenance work are effective. The process is orderly, so repairs are completed swiftly, and pupils are not at risk of harm.
- The headteacher introduced twice-daily checks of the premises and accommodation. Any issues are recorded, and this list is sent to the assistant director. Repairs are prioritised and completed in a timely manner. Any emergency incident is communicated to the central team, and maintenance officers are deployed immediately.
- This standard is now met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b)

- The monitoring inspection in January 2019 found that leaders had successfully addressed deficiencies identified at the previous material change inspection but found other unmet independent school standards at the school's main site. The school's safeguarding policy was out of date and raised concerns over pupils' welfare. Similarly, ongoing maintenance issues were not resolved well enough and posed a risk to pupils. Therefore, the standards for leadership and management were unmet.
- The action plan evaluation of May 2019 indicated that action was planned to remedy all issues identified at the inspection in January 2019. The school supplied additional evidence to indicate that it had already completed repairs in relation to some aspects identified.

- Leaders have successfully remedied the unmet standards relating to the school's safeguarding policy and ongoing maintenance work. Pupils are safe.
- An improvement plan guides the work of the headteacher. She is knowledgeable about the independent school standards. An external school improvement officer monitors the work of the school each half term and reports on its progress to the assistant director.
- Leaders have taken effective action to remedy any weaknesses from the previous inspection and all standards are now met.

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. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	136239
DfE registration number	358/6019
Inspection number	10112366

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 school
Age range of pupils	8 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	3
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	1
Number of part-time pupils	None
Proprietor	Mrs Tzaraine Cope
Headteacher	Mrs Leanne Doherty
Annual fees (day pupils)	£41,769
Telephone number	0161 776 2827
Website	www.fairfieldresidential.co.uk
Email address	education@faifieldresidential.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	16–17 May 2017

Information about this school

- Fairfield is a special school that caters for up to five pupils between the ages of eight and 19 years with autism spectrum disorder, severe learning difficulties, complex health needs and challenging behaviours.
- The school is housed in purpose-built premises. It has two small classrooms, a garden, toilet facilities and a medical room.

- The school is in the north-west of England and is owned by Fairfield Residential. The company also owns Fairfield farm project, which provides off-site provision for pupils at the school. The farm is located approximately six miles from the school.
- All pupils at the school have an education, health and care plan in relation to their autism spectrum disorder and associated special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The school was last inspected by Ofsted in May 2017.
- The school does not use alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of the Department for Education (DfE), which is the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous monitoring inspection.
- This was the second progress monitoring inspection following the school's previous standard inspection in May 2017.
- The DfE accepted the school's action plan following the previous monitoring inspection in May 2019.
- The inspection was conducted without notice to the school.
- During this inspection, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) held meetings with the headteacher and the assistant director. HMI toured the school and the school site. She scrutinised a variety of documents, including the safeguarding policy, records of maintenance issues and recruitment documentation.

Inspection team

Eileen Mulgrew, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex. Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school now meets the following independent school standards

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

7 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that–

- 7(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

25 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

34(1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school–

- 34(1)(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
- 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
- 34(1)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

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