

Magdalen Court School

Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4NU

Inspection dates

24 September 2020

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 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraphs: 2(1)(b), 2(2), 3(a-d)

- The school offers a wide-ranging curriculum. This curriculum is well structured and supports pupils to increase their knowledge over time. The school offers a range of appropriate qualifications for pupils to work towards.
- The school's personal, social and health education programme, coupled with assemblies, equips pupils to respect other people and understand British values. The school's careers programme supports pupils to make informed choices about their futures and fulfil their potential.
- At the time of the previous material change inspection, the delivery of the curriculum did not meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Teachers were not adapting the curriculum in line with the targets set out in pupils' education, health and care (EHC) plans. Since that inspection, the proprietor has appointed a new headteacher with experience and expertise in working with pupils with SEND. There have also been several other appointments of staff with suitable knowledge and experience of working with pupils with SEND.
- The headteacher has provided training for all staff aimed at ensuring that everyone understands the targets set out in pupils' EHC plans. Staff now have a clear understanding of the needs, aptitudes and prior attainment of these pupils.
- Specialist staff are in place to improve communication with external specialists. Systems are in place to ensure that information is shared with staff. This has resulted in teachers adapting their planning so that it provides for the needs of pupils with SEND. Support staff are clear about their role in assisting pupils. All pupils now have the opportunity to develop academically.
- The standards in these paragraphs are likely to be met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 9, 11, 14, 16

- The proprietor has ensured that there is an appropriate safeguarding policy in place. This policy is in line with current statutory guidance and is available on the school's website. Expectations of staff are clear.
- Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regards to keeping pupils safe. The school uses an electronic system to record concerns. Staff have confidence in using the system and take the right actions to help keep pupils safe.
- The school has a comprehensive behaviour policy. Leaders keep records of serious misbehaviour. Staff training ensures that all staff know how to manage behaviour effectively. This includes recognising how relationships affect behaviour.
- The proprietor has written a comprehensive health and safety policy. This policy explains what all staff must do to ensure effective health and safety in the school. The policy also refers to how the curriculum provides for teaching pupils, including those with SEND, about health and safety.
- Pupils are well supervised. During breaks and between lessons staff are vigilant and ensure the safety of pupils. They know their responsibilities and adjust the level of support to match pupils' individual needs.
- Staff prepare individual risk assessments for each pupil when they join the school. These consider the individual needs of each pupil. For example, personal emergency evacuation plans are in place for pupils that require extra support in the event of an evacuation.
- Comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the premises and for off-site activities. Leaders review these regularly and adjust them as required.
- The standards in these paragraphs are likely to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34

- To meet the requirements of the ISS, following the previous material change inspection, the proprietor took action to increase the number of staff with suitable experience and expertise in working with pupils with SEND. This resulted in the appointment of a new headteacher, a review of the school's staffing arrangements and extensive training for all staff.
- The new headteacher is an experienced school leader who understands the additional needs of the pupils in her school well. She has developed staff expertise and ensured that the needs of these pupils are met successfully.
- Leaders now have systems of accountability for checking and evaluating the impact of the school's work. Trustees now check to see that the school is operating effectively.
- Leaders continue to actively promote the well-being of pupils. Safeguarding arrangements meet requirements and the curriculum supports the social and emotional development of pupils, including those with SEND, well.
- The standards in this paragraph 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	113623
DfE registration number	878/6045
Inspection number	10154758

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 school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	John Jenner Jnr
Chair	John Jenner Snr
Headteacher	Sylvia Kerambrum
Annual fees (day pupils)	£24,000 to £52,000
Telephone number	01392 494919
Website	www.MagdalenCourtSchool.co.uk
Email address	office@magdalencourtschool.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	2–4 July 2019

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	5 to 18	5 to 18	5 to 18
Number of pupils on the school roll	54	180	180

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	52	180
Number of part-time pupils	2	10
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	50	180
Of which, number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	49	180
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	48	180

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	13	15
Number of part-time teaching staff	1	15
Number of staff in the welfare provision	10	40

Information about this school

- Magdalen Court School is a co-educational, non-selective day school currently registered for 250 pupils aged between five and 18 years of age.
- The proprietor appointed a new headteacher in September 2020.
- Currently, most of the pupils on the school's roll have an EHC plan.

- The majority of pupils are placed at the school by Devon.
- The school does not make use of any alternative education provision.
- The school's previous standard inspection was in July 2019. At this time, it was found to require improvement to be good.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 to consider the school's request for a material change. All of the inspection was conducted on site.
- The purpose of the inspection was to consider whether the school could add pupils with SEND to its registration status. This was the school's second material change inspection. The first material change inspection was on 5 March 2020.
- During the inspection, the inspector met with a trustee, the headteacher, the school's head of placements, the leader for SEND, teachers and learning support assistants to discuss the proposed changes.
- The inspector reviewed a range of the school's documentation, including policies and procedures, pupils' EHC plans, individual support plans, risk assessments and other records maintained by school staff.
- The inspector spoke on the telephone to a representative of Devon County Council and the parents of two children who attend the school.
- The inspector also reviewed material available on the school's website.

Inspection team

Mark Burgess, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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