

Connie Rothman Learning Centre

107–109 Belle Vue Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 3DJ

Inspection dates

30 September 2020

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards. It is currently operating without registration

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4

- Since the first pre-registration inspection, the proprietor has appointed a new headteacher. The new headteacher is an experienced school leader who understands the needs of the pupils at the school well. The proprietor has also increased the number of qualified teachers employed at the school.
- Leaders have written a curriculum policy that demonstrates how pupils will follow a teaching programme that covers a range of subjects. The national curriculum is the basis for their approach. Planned learning is in place across all year groups in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative subject areas.
- Teaching staff have written schemes of work that provide more detail about what is to be taught. These schemes of work now cover all subjects across all key stages. Teachers have clear plans, accurately matched to the needs of each pupil.
- Leaders have appointed experienced and qualified teaching staff. Teachers' subject knowledge and the one-to-one tutoring approach helps pupils to engage in learning. The new headteacher has systems in place to monitor the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.
- The new headteacher has established a system to assess pupils' progress and achievement. Pupils are assessed on entry to the school to identify what they know and can do, and what they need to learn next. Teachers use ongoing assessment to check pupils' understanding and adjust their plans as required. This supports pupils to develop academically.
- Leaders have detailed and suitable plans to promote pupils' personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. These plans show that equalities and fundamental British values will be actively promoted.
- Leaders have improved the provision of careers advice since the last pre-registration inspection. Pupils now have access to independent careers advice. Records for current

pupils show that they are engaging with the adviser and are receiving appropriate guidance for their aspirations. This includes meetings with people from different industries. For example, the chief engineer of a cruise liner company has come to the school to talk about careers.

- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Paragraph 5

- Leaders have planned carefully for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The PSHE curriculum includes opportunities for pupils to broaden their understanding of the world, learn about healthy lifestyles and appreciate views that are different to their own.
- Leaders articulate and demonstrate their intent to promote a supportive and inclusive school culture with a strong focus on building relationships based on trust and respect.
- The school's policies reflect the promotion of fundamental British values. This includes ensuring that pupils are not exposed to partisan political views in teaching or any other activities.
- The one-to-one tutoring approach enables staff to increase pupils' self-esteem and help them to express and manage their emotions.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

- The proprietor has addressed the issues in this part that were identified at the first pre-registration inspection.
- Leaders now implement robust pre-employment checks and vetting procedures which are accurately recorded in the single central register.
- All staff have the required training in safeguarding. This training is now reinforced through regular updates in staff meetings. Staff are fully aware of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding and are confident in using the school's procedures for reporting concerns. The safeguarding policy meets current requirements and is published on the school's website.
- The school's behaviour policy fosters good relationships between pupils and between staff and pupils. Appropriate sanctions, including the use of exclusion, are in place, and records are maintained on pupils' individual files. A separate anti-bullying policy is in place.
- Since the last pre-registration inspection, the proprietor has appointed a new school business manager. The arrangements for ensuring the health and safety of pupils and staff are now effective. All necessary checks are undertaken, with records maintained by the school business manager.
- Leaders keep records about the fire safety of the building. This includes records related to fire drills and the testing of fire detection equipment. Emergency evacuation

routes have clear signage and emergency lighting is in place. Leaders have appointed a fire warden to maintain these standards.

- Leaders have a wide range of risk assessments in place. These cover activities in the school's buildings and off-site activities.
- The school has a written first-aid policy. The policy is clear about staff responsibilities and the actions to be taken in the case of an accident. The proprietor provides staff with emergency first-aid training. The first-aid boxes are in place and are well equipped.
- The one-to-one approach to teaching and the open-plan teaching areas mean that supervision is adequate in the two buildings. When pupils leave the site, there are risk assessments in place and clear guidelines for supervision by staff.
- Leaders manage attendance and admissions using a suitable online system. The system records all the required information.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

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

Paragraphs 18, 19, 20 and 21

- Leaders have taken action to address the issues identified during the first pre-registration inspection.
- The required checks, related to the suitability of staff to work with children, have been carried out and meet statutory requirements.
- The school's single central record of these checks includes all the information that it should, including for members of the proprietorial body.
- Leaders intend to cover any staff absence internally. They do not intend to employ supply staff. However, they know what checks they need to make if they use supply staff.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1)(c), 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b) and 24(2)

- The proprietor has added a second site to the school since the last inspection. Both sites are in converted commercial premises. The two sites are a short distance apart.
- The main site is the same as at the time of the first pre-registration inspection. This consists of two teaching areas on the ground floor and a further teaching area in the basement. The second site consists of a single, ground floor teaching area.
- At the time of the first pre-registration inspection, there was no identified area for the medical treatment and examination of pupils. Leaders have addressed this issue. At both sites, there is an identified space available for the medical examination and treatment of pupils. At both sites, the spaces are next to toilet facilities. At each site, there is a folding bed available.
- At the time of the first pre-registration inspection, there were no changing rooms or showers available for pupils. Leaders have addressed this issue by arranging to use

the facilities at a local amateur rugby club for physical education. There are separate changing and showering facilities for boys and girls.

Paragraph 25

- At the time of the last inspection, the arrangements for ensuring the safety of electrical equipment did not meet requirements. There were also concerns about the effectiveness of fire safety equipment and the lack of records of checks and routine evacuations.
- Leaders have addressed these issues. The appointment of an experienced school business manager has resulted in all necessary checks being undertaken. Leaders now have records of electrical and fire checks. Leaders also have records of fire evacuation practices. Contracts are in place to ensure that checks take place on a regular basis.

Paragraphs 23(1)–23(1)(b), 26–29(1)(b)

- At both sites, the teaching areas have adequate acoustic conditions. All rooms have good lighting and natural ventilation.
- Both sites are on a main road which is well lit, providing adequate external lighting.
- Pupils can access drinking water throughout the day from clearly marked taps. Handbasins have an adequate supply of cold and hot water. The temperature of the hot water is not scalding.
- At both sites, there are separate toilets for boys, girls and staff.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32

- Since the first pre-registration inspection, leaders have written an admissions policy and a first-aid policy.
- The school's website makes all the necessary policies available to parents and carers. This includes an up-to-date safeguarding policy and health and safety policy. The contact details for the school and the proprietor are available on the website.
- Records of pupils' progress will be available to parents, local authorities and other relevant agencies for the purpose of reviewing a pupil's education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Paragraph 33

- The complaints policy clearly sets out the procedures for resolving complaints. The different stages of managing and responding to a complaint, including timescales, are clearly set out.
- The policy provides for an independent person to form part of a panel that will hear any complaints.
- Leaders plan to keep a confidential record of complaints. These will make clear the findings of each complaint and at which stage the complaint was resolved.

- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34

- To meet the requirements of the independent school standards (ISS), following the first pre-registration inspection, the proprietor appointed a new headteacher and a new business manager. Both new postholders are experienced school leaders.
- There are now systems in place which meet the requirements for safeguarding and health and safety.
- The new headteacher has established systems of accountability for checking and evaluating the impact of the school's work.
- Leaders now demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to ensure that all the ISS are likely to be met.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The trustees are committed to meeting the needs of all pupils wherever practicable. Leaders have considered how they will adapt the premises, to help all pupils access what the proposed school has to offer. The curriculum and the resources used reflect the proposed school's inclusive approach.

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.

Proposed school details

Unique reference number	148069
DfE registration number	839/6014
Inspection number	10163214

This inspection was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards that are required for registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Independent special school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Connie Rothman Learning Trust
Chair	Gillian Waylett
Headteacher	Rozanne Parsons
Annual fees (day pupils)	£38,000
Telephone number	01202 433672
Website	www.crlt.org.uk
Email address	roz@crlt.org.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	Not previously inspected

Provider already operating

Number of pupils of compulsory school age	15
Number of pupils of compulsory school age for whom a statement is maintained under section 324, or who is looked after by a local authority	1
Total hours operating as a school per week	30
Total hours of teaching provided per week	15

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	11–19	11–19	11–19
Number of pupils on the school roll	17	30	30

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	0	30
Number of part-time pupils	15	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	13	Up to 30
Of which, number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan	12	Up to 30
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	12	Up to 30

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	11.1	15
Number of part-time teaching staff	20	30
Number of staff in the welfare provision	0	2

Information about this proposed school

- The school is based in two converted commercial units in the Southbourne area of Bournemouth.
- Since the first pre-registration inspection in September 2019, the school has acquired a second premises. There is now sufficient space for 30 pupils to attend the school.
- Since the first pre-registration inspection, the proprietor has appointed a new headteacher.
- The proprietor of the school is the Connie Rothman Learning Trust. The proprietor does not run any other school.
- The school intends to cater for pupils between the ages of 11 and 19 years. Most pupils will have a diagnosis of anxiety and autism spectrum disorder.
- All the pupils at the school are likely to have EHC plans.
- The school does not have any religious character.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.
- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic of 2020.
- This was the proposed school's second pre-registration inspection. The first pre-registration inspection was on 4 September 2019.
- The inspector reviewed documentation related to the curriculum, safeguarding, health and safety of the premises and the suitability of staff.
- The inspector met with the chair of the proprietary body, the headteacher, the business manager and three teachers.
- The school is currently operating. There are 15 pupils on roll; one is a child looked after and almost all have EHC plans. None of them are attending the school for more than 15 hours each week.
- No teaching was observed during the inspection.

Inspection team

Mark Burgess, 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. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email 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, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/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.

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, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

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
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2020