

Lewis Charlton Learning Centre

The Lantern, North Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 1HU

Inspection dates

7 October 2020

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)

- The arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils at the school are effective.
- The school's safeguarding policy follows the latest guidance issued by the Secretary of State. It is published on the school's website. Staff understand the school's policy and systems, and consistently follow the guidance. For example, all staff with whom inspectors spoke understand their responsibility to report concerns they might have about an adult's conduct, and how they should do this.
- Staff are well trained in safeguarding arrangements. Leaders ensure that staff receive regular updates about national and local safeguarding matters.
- Leaders ensure that staff are kept up to date about safeguarding matters affecting individual pupils. This means that staff are able to provide support in a timely manner.
- Leaders have carefully considered the potential risks that may affect individual pupils' safety and well-being. They have ensured that staff are alert to potential concerns. Staff are quick to report any concerns that they have about pupils' well-being. Pupils learn about how to manage safeguarding risks that are pertinent to their individual situations and needs.
- Leaders take prompt action when they have concerns about pupils' safety and well-being. They make sure that pupils get the help they need quickly. Leaders work closely with external agencies to make sure that pupils get any specialist support that they need.
- Leaders have introduced a new electronic system for recording safeguarding concerns. Leaders recognise that 'the system is only as good as the information you put in it'. They have trained staff in using the system effectively. Records are detailed.

Paragraph 11

- Leaders have put in place an appropriate health and safety policy. Leaders monitor its implementation regularly and take action to address any concerns that are raised. The health and safety policy is appropriately aligned with the school's risk assessment policy and procedures.

Paragraph 16, 16(a), 16(b)

- Leaders have put in place a comprehensive risk assessment policy that is understood by staff.
- All pupils have an individual risk assessment in place. The risk assessments are detailed and comprehensive. For example, they consider pupils' individual behaviour, the activities in which a pupil will participate and the physical environment. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed and amended accordingly. Staff understand the contents of each risk assessment and how they should apply it to mitigate potential risks and to support pupils' behaviour and needs.
- The 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 have sought external advice to ensure that they understand the requirements of the independent school standards, and to check that they are meeting them.
- Following the inspection in May 2019, leaders took prompt action to ensure that all staff understand and follow the school's safeguarding policy. Leaders check staff's understanding of the policy and monitor its implementation.
- Leaders have introduced new systems to ensure that safeguarding records are detailed and well maintained. They have provided guidance and training to support staff to use the systems effectively, and to ensure that records are of high quality.
- Leaders have reviewed their approach to pupils' risk assessments. They are strategic in managing risks to pupils. There is now a joined-up approach that is understood by all staff.
- Leaders prioritise pupils' safety and well-being. They are keen for pupils to succeed and to prepare them for their next steps.
- The standards in this part are 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.

The school now meets the following independent school standards

- 7 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that–
 - 7(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
 - 7(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 11 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy.
- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that–
 - 16(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and
 - 16(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

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.

School details

Unique reference number	134438
DfE registration number	855/6020
Inspection number	10165113

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 Special School
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	36
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	9
Number of part-time pupils	2
Proprietor	Lewis Charlton Ltd
Chair	Chris Davies
Headteacher	Malcolm Kerridge
Annual fees (day pupils)	£59,000–£107,850
Telephone number	01530 560775
Website	www.lewischarltonschool.org
Email address	natalie.kong@lewischarltongroup.org.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	20–23 May 2019

Information about this school

- Lewis Charlton Learning Centre is an independent day special school located in Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire. It is located across four sites. Three sites are located within the centre of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. These are Lewis Charlton Village, Space City, and The Lantern. The sixth-form building, which is called Charlton Chapel, is located in Donisthorpe village.

- The school is owned by Lewis Charlton Ltd, which has its head office in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
- The school is registered to admit up to 57 pupils in the age range 11 to 19. There are currently 36 pupils on roll, of whom 9 are in the school's sixth-form provision.
- All pupils have an education, health and care plan. Pupils' needs mostly relate to social and emotional needs.
- Pupils travel to the school from several local authorities.
- The school uses two alternative providers for pupils to receive some of their education away from the school. These are Chameleon School of Construction, in Swadlincote, and GAZ autos, in Leicester.
- The school's last standard inspection took place on 20 to 23 May 2019.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of 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 inspection.
- The inspection took place with no notice. This was in line with the commission from the registration authority, the Department for Education (DfE).
- Inspectors held meetings with the executive headteacher and the head of school, and a selection of the teaching and support staff. The lead inspector met the proprietor via a video call.
- An inspector visited all four of the school's sites and spoke with staff based at each.
- There were too few responses to the online parents' survey, Parent View, for inspectors to consider.
- Inspectors scrutinised a range of documentation relating to the school's provision, including safeguarding records and pupils' risk assessments.
- An inspector checked the school's single central register and the school's system for recruiting staff.

Inspection team

Deborah Mosley, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

John Lawson

Her Majesty's Inspector

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