

Fullerton House School

Off Tickhill Square, Denaby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN12 4AR

Inspection date

18 November 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

Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b), 32, 32(1)(c)

- The proprietor has ensured that a relevant safeguarding policy is available for parents and carers to download from the school website.
- All staff who were spoken to during the inspection had a thorough understanding of safeguarding procedures. A strong safeguarding ethos is clear.
- Staff are well trained and know who to speak to if they have concerns. Staff told me that they know senior staff always take any concerns they have seriously.
- Senior leaders check that staff understand safeguarding procedures and guidance, for example via questions asked in supervision meetings.
- The school leaders are currently investing in a new online system to record incidents. They anticipate this will allow for quicker and more efficient identification of patterns and trends.
- Different outside agencies work with school senior staff to ensure pupils' safety. These agencies confirm that good policies and protocols are in place to safeguard pupils.

Paragraphs 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c), 10

- Documents and policies are available for staff and parents to help them understand how behaviour is dealt with in school.
- Staff write detailed incident forms for all incidents within school. These forms highlight how staff make every effort to avoid any physical intervention to manage pupils' behaviour.
- Senior leaders carefully monitor behavioural incidents that occur. Information on these incidents demonstrate that there is a marked decrease of incidents over time.
- Contrary to suggestions made in a recent complaint, strong, positive relationships between peers and between adults and pupils are evident.

- Staff commented to me that they felt the training and induction they received was excellent. They said it equipped them well to fulfil their roles.

Paragraph 14

- Pupils are well supervised, which does not support comments made in a recent complaint. Staff sensitively give pupils time to be alone, but stay close enough to help them if needed.
- Staff have built up strong and supportive relationships with pupils. Some pupils were able to tell me about the people who looked after them and how they help them to appropriately manage their behaviour.
- These standards continue to be met.

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

Paragraphs 18(2), 18(2)(a), 18(2)(b), 18(2)(c), 18(2)(c)(i), 18(2)(c)(ii), 18(2)(c)(iii), 18(2)(c)(iv), 18(2)(d), 18(2)(e), 18(3), 20(6), 20(6)(a), 20(6)(a)(i), 20(6)(a)(ii), 20(6)(b), 20(6)(b)(i), 20(6)(b)(ii), 20(6)(b)(3), 20(6)(c), 21(1), 21(2), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(ii), 21(3)(a)(iii), 21(3)(a)(iv), 21(3)(a)(v), 21(3)(a)(vi), 21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(a)(viii), 21(3)(b), 21(6), 21(7), 21(7)(a), 21(7)(b)

- Senior leaders have records of the comprehensive checks that are made to ensure staff are able to work with pupils. These checks are recorded in the single central register.
- These standards continue to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- Senior leaders have good procedures in place to allow staff the opportunity to identify any training needs and to discuss any concerns or worries they have. For example, supervision meetings are held regularly.
- The proprietors continue to use systems that regularly and carefully monitor all incidents. Trends and patterns are noted by leaders so that they can quickly address any potential issues.
- Members of the proprietor board carry out thorough investigations if potentially major incidents are reported to them, such as possible staff misconduct.
- The proprietors have added another layer of accountability since the previous inspection. An education board now holds school leaders to account. It in turn reports to the board of directors of the proprietors.
- The educational board includes members who have different skills and knowledge that will support the school. For example, some members have an in-depth and working knowledge of safeguarding.
- Education board meetings demonstrate the high aspirations that the leadership and management team have.
- Senior leaders are continually seeking to improve the school, for example the new system of recording and monitoring incidents and a newly formed education board.

- School leaders ensure that policy and procedural documentation are fully up to date. They take measures to check staff understanding of documentation on a regular basis.
- These standards continue to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The proprietors have a range of policies that consider how the curriculum and the building is adapted to meet pupils' individual needs.

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. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	106817
DfE registration number	371/6011
Inspection number	10171026

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 residential special 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	34
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	13
Proprietor	Hesley Group Ltd
Chair	Graham Smith
Headteacher	Mr Michael Walsh
Annual fees (day pupils)	£79,686
Telephone number	01709 861663
Website	www.hesleygroup.co.uk
Email address	fhsadmin@hesleygroup.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	27–29 November 2018

Information about this school

- Fullerton House School accepts up to 44 pupils aged between eight and 19 years.
- Currently, there are 34 pupils attending the school. Three pupils are day pupils, with 31 pupils having a 52-week residential placement.
- All pupils currently attending have an education, health and care plan. Most pupils have, along with other diagnoses, a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

- Pupils are taught in six different classes, in mixed year groups, based on their individual needs.
- The school's last standard inspection was in November 2018, when it was judged to be good in all aspects.
- The school does not use any alternative education providers.
- The governance of the school takes the format of an education board who report to a board of directors from the Hesley Group.
- A general manager has overall daily responsibility for both the care and the education setting.

Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned this emergency inspection to check on pupil's safety and well-being following complaints received. The inspection was carried out with approximately 30 minutes' notice.
- This inspection was commissioned by the DfE during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic of 2020. I followed the school's safety protocols during the inspection.
- I met with the general manager, the headteacher and held a telephone conversation with a member of the proprietor board.
- I met with several staff and pupils while adhering to government COVID-19 safety guidelines. I did not enter classrooms, but observed lessons from outside classroom doors.
- I studied several documents, such as information on incidents, education board reports and safeguarding, including the single central register.

Inspection team

Jo Sharpe, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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