

Seadown School

Seadown House, 1a Farncombe Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2BE

Inspection date

18 May 2021

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(b), 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- The requirements of these paragraphs were found to be met at the school's first progress monitoring inspection. This inspection considered how well previous improvements were being sustained.
- The school's safeguarding policy is published on the school's website. The policy advocates a proactive culture around safeguarding. For example, there are clear statements about training and empowering staff to recognise and respond effectively to safeguarding risks.
- The school has a warm, friendly atmosphere underpinned by positive and encouraging relationships between adults and pupils. The school's work to both keep pupils safe and promote their well-being is plain to see throughout the environment.
- Safeguarding training remained a priority during national and local restrictions linked with COVID-19 (coronavirus). Staff are alert to even low-level matters that may have an impact on pupils' welfare and well-being. They take prompt and appropriate action, including working with families and other professionals. Changes linked with COVID-19 and new pupils joining have recently led to an increase in activity around pupils' welfare, health and safety. Leaders are conscious of the importance of updating record systems promptly to reflect all actions and activity to safeguard pupils.
- The school continues to meet the standards in this part that were checked.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(b)

- At the time of the previous monitoring inspection, the new leadership team was still in its infancy. Governance also remained in a period of transition. More time was needed to establish a fully effective model to lead and manage the school.
- The school's action plan set out a range of actions intended to strengthen leadership at different levels. This included steps to provide a greater degree of professional oversight

of the school's work.

- Systems and structures for leadership, management and governance are establishing well. The progress leaders originally hoped to make has undoubtedly been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, leaders and governors have used this time wisely and the school has made sufficient progress in ensuring that the associated standards are now met.
- The proprietor, directors, governors and headteacher are clear about their respective roles and accountabilities. They bring a professional, serious and determined approach to their work.
- The school's approach to fulfilling statutory requirements is increasingly systematic and thorough. This includes arrangements for governor visits, audits and meetings. Leaders provide or facilitate relevant training to support those who assume particular tasks or roles. Rigorous plans for the recruitment and selection of additional governors shows the value proprietors and other governors attach to this role.
- The headteacher feels supported by the accountability systems in place and believes these are helping to improve the school. Governors have considered carefully how they can add value. They aim to bring a 'curious' and, if necessary, 'critical eye' to the work of the school while ensuring any challenge is constructive and helpful. The headteacher confirmed that, this academic year, it has become helpful to have important aspects of the school's work 'critically analysed'.
- Leaders are ambitious and remain keen to aim above the minimum expectation of meeting the standards. They have continued to review, refresh and recreate plans for improving the school. Areas that the previous monitoring inspection found to have improved have been sustained and further developed. For example, older pupils are used to regular input about possible careers and next steps.
- The requirements in this part that were checked 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.

The school now meets the following independent school standards

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; and
 - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

School details

Unique reference number	135691
DfE registration number	938/6228
Inspection number	10193120

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	Special school
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	6 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	30
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Seadown School Ltd
Chair	Terry Goble/Michelle Wright
Headteacher	James Eagle
Annual fees (day pupils)	£27,900
Telephone number	01903 608750
Website	www.seadownschool.co.uk
Email address	office@seadownschool.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	14 to 16 May 2019

Information about this school

- Seadown School provides education for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Many pupils have additional needs, such as autism spectrum disorder. All pupils have an education, health and care plan.
- The school's previous standard inspection was in May 2019. A subsequent progress monitoring inspection was conducted in November 2019. The headteacher and deputy headteacher joined the school between the standard inspection and the first progress monitoring inspection.

- Pupils are assigned to one of four classes that are mostly organised by age. The two lower school classes have mainly primary pupils, while the two upper school classes are for secondary pupils.
- The school does not use any alternative provision.

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.
- This was the second progress monitoring inspection. At the first progress monitoring inspection on 20 November 2019, the school was found to be meeting some, but not all, of the previously un-met independent school standards.
- The Department for Education (DfE) required the school to prepare a statutory action plan. Ofsted evaluated the school's action plan on 2 March 2020 and the DfE subsequently accepted it on 22 April 2020.
- This inspection was conducted with 30 minutes' notice.
- During the day, the inspector toured the school with the headteacher. He held discussions with the headteacher, senior leaders, staff and pupils. The inspector attended the weekly meeting between the proprietors and headteacher. He also spoke via webcam with the proprietors and held a telephone conversation with the chair of governors.
- The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation and records linked with safeguarding and the leadership and management of the school, including governance.

Inspection team

Clive Dunn, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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