

Want2Achieve The Academy

Unit 1, Trent Walk, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3HE

Inspection date

14 December 2021

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraphs 2(1), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b), 2(1)(b)(i), 2(1)(b)(ii), 2(2), 2(2)(a), 2(2)(b), 2(2)(d), 2(2)(d)(i), 2(2)(d)(ii), 2(2)(e), 2(2)(e)(i), 2(2)(e)(ii), 2(2)(e)(iii), 2(2)(f), 2(2)(g), 2(2)(h), 2(2)(i), 2A(1), 2A(1)(b), 2A(1)(d), 2A(1)(e), 2A(1)(f), 2A(1)(g), 2A(2), 3, 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h), 3(i), 3(j) and 4

- Most pupils that the school is likely to admit will have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and may have spent time out of school. The school's stated overarching aim is to help such pupils emotionally, socially and academically, and support them to re-engage with education. The school's curriculum plans, programmes of study and staff expertise indicate that the school is likely to be able to meet this aim.
- The school intends to offer a curriculum that includes English, mathematics, science, humanities, art, music and physical education (PE). Curriculum plans set out what is to be taught. These plans also set out expectations for pupils to work towards qualifications, such as functional skills or GCSEs if appropriate.
- The intended curriculum includes a vocational strand. The proprietor intends to ensure that all pupils receive careers guidance. For older pupils, the curriculum offers a 'bridging the gap' programme. This is intended to build on earlier careers guidance and prepare pupils for the next stage in their lives, be it employment, college or an apprenticeship.
- The proprietor has drawn up plans for relationships and sex education. This programme is informed by government guidance. It sets out expectations for teaching pupils about healthy relationships, contraception and consent. Like other aspects of the school's planned curriculum, this programme is informed by the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- The written behaviour policy is bespoke to the school. It is designed to encourage responsible behaviour and describes the rewards and sanctions to be used.
- Indoor and outdoor spaces are adequate, and suitably resourced, for their intended purposes.

- These standards are likely to be met.

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

Paragraphs 5, 5(a), 5(b), 5(b)(i), 5(b)(ii), 5(b)(iii), 5(b)(iv), 5(b)(v), 5(b)(vi), 5(b)(vii), 5(c), 5(d), 5(d)(i), 5(d)(ii) and 5(d)(iii)

- The intended school curriculum includes a detailed programme of personal, social and health education. Through this programme, and a range of other activities, the proprietor plans to ensure that pupils learn about British values and the consequences of the choices they make. The planned curriculum takes account of the protected characteristics.
- The curriculum is designed with the intention of broadening pupils' horizons. The proprietor aims to help pupils re-engage with education and become responsible members of society. By helping pupils in this way, staff aim to support pupils to find constructive pathways to future careers.
- School leaders do not intend to use any alternative providers but do plan to work with different professionals to support pupils' particular needs. The proprietor has put suitable procedures in place to check that any visiting speakers or school trips are appropriate.
- Leaders plan to organise an annual residential trip to an activity centre. In addition, the proprietor has made links with sports clubs so pupils can benefit from wider opportunities beyond school.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b), 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c), 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- The proprietor has produced a safeguarding policy that is informed by government statutory guidance. It provides clear guidance to staff about how to spot and respond to any concerns. Staff have received recent training and know a lot about safeguarding and the risks that young people can face.
- Other policies, including first-aid, risk assessment, behaviour and anti-bullying policies, are in place and include all the necessary information. The proprietor has set up a recording format for logging any sanctions imposed for serious misbehaviour.
- Fire exits open as they should and are not blocked by any furniture or other items. Fire extinguishers and fire alarm points are located around the building. At the time of the inspection, smoke detectors had been fitted upstairs but were still on order for fitting downstairs. The proprietor said that this would be done in the next few weeks. The proprietor has routines in place for testing the alarms and carrying out practice drills.
- Admissions and attendance registers are in place.
- These standards are likely 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), 19(2), 19(2)(a), 19(2)(a)(i), 19(2)(a)(i)(aa), 19(2)(a)(i)(bb), 19(2)(a)(i)(cc), 19(2)(a)(i)(dd), 19(2)(a)(ii), 19(2)(b), 19(2)(c),

19(2)(d), 19(2)(d)(i), 19(2)(d)(ii), 19(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)(iii), 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(4), 21(5), 21(5)(a), 21(5)(a)(i), 21(5)(a)(ii), 21(5)(b), 21(5)(c), 21(6), 21(7), 21(7)(a) and 21(7)(b)

- The proprietor has produced a single central record for recording employment checks on staff. The format includes all the required checks and is fit for purpose.
- The proprietor has not employed anyone who is prohibited from teaching or from running and managing a school.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b), 23(1)(c), 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(2), 25, 26, 27, 27(a), 27(b), 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 28(2), 28(2)(a), 28(2)(b), 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)

- The proposed school is housed in a former commercial property. The proprietor has adapted it to make it suitable for education purposes. Some building work is still ongoing. Specifically, external lighting, downstairs smoke alarms and a new hot water controller are still to be fitted. At the time of the inspection, building contractors were working on site and the proprietor shared paperwork to show the planned programme of works. These plans included the necessary work already mentioned.
- The rooms are suitable for their intended purposes. Indoor lighting, furniture and security are all fine. There is a well-equipped gym and music studio. In addition, there is suitable office space, a medical room and a room for meetings.
- There are lockable toilets for both male and female pupils and adequate basins for hand washing. Wash basins have hot and cold water taps.
- Drinking water is available and is marked as such.
- There are no on-site showers. The proprietor has arranged to use the showers at a nearby gym, which the proprietor intends pupils to visit for PE.
- There is adequate outdoor space, which the proprietor intends to upgrade in order to make it more suitable for recreation.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraphs 32(1), 32(1)(a), 32(1)(b), 32(1)(c), 32(1)(d), 32(1)(f), 32(1)(g), 32(1)(h), 32(1)(i), 32(1)(j), 32(2), 32(2)(a), 32(2)(b), 32(2)(b)(i), 32(2)(b)(ii), 32(2)(d), 32(3), 32(3)(a), 32(3)(b), 32(3)(c), 32(3)(d), 32(3)(e), 32(3)(f) and 32(3)(g)

- The proprietor has produced all the required policies. These are informed by current guidance and were available during the inspection.
- The proprietor has an online system for recording pupils' achievements, attendance and other relevant information. This system can be accessed by a secure login. The proprietor intends to make this information available to parents, carers and placing local authorities when required. The proprietor intends to ensure that all of the

required information in relation to the annual review of a pupil's education, health and care (EHC) plan will be supplied to the relevant local authority.

- Suitable arrangements are in place to provide information about income and expenditure to placing local authorities.
- There is a school website. Currently, this website does not include all the required information. The proprietor is working with the school's website designer to update the website. The proprietor knows what is required and the necessary information is already available and ready to be published online when the website is updated.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Paragraphs 33, 33(a), 33(b), 33(c), 33(d), 33(e), 33(f), 33(g), 33(h), 33(i), 33(i)(i), 33(i)(ii), 33(j), 33(j)(i), 33(j)(ii) and 33(k)

- The proprietor has produced a written complaints policy. The policy explains how to make a complaint and the informal and formal arrangements for hearing a complaint. Should a complainant be dissatisfied with the outcome or processes for managing their complaint, then there is provision for convening a panel hearing. It is intended that any such panel would include someone who is not involved with the running of the school. The school has a format for logging and retaining complaints on file.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)

- The directors of Want2Achieve The Academy Limited know about the independent school standards. During this inspection, they were able to produce all the required information and knew how it related to different standards. They have plenty of relevant experience and present as well informed about the challenges that pupils often face and ways to help them overcome these.
- Leaders' plans, policies and programmes of work are mindful of pupils' learning, well-being, emotional and behavioural needs. If implemented successfully, these plans are likely to help pupils to re-engage with education, make progress and aspire to worthwhile choices when they leave.
- These standards are likely to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The proprietors have produced an accessibility plan that sets out access arrangements and proposed actions. The plan is well organised and realistic and meets the requirement of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

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	148829
DfE registration number	861/6031
Inspection number	10213446

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 school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Want2Achieve The Academy Limited
Chair	Sharon Murphy and Daniel Rochester
Headteacher	Sharon Murphy
Annual fees (day pupils)	£25,000
Telephone number	07907 443 238
Website	www.want2achieve.co.uk
Email address	enquiries@want2achieve.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	Not previously inspected

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	Not applicable	11 to 18	11 to 18
Number of pupils on the school roll	Not applicable	25	15

Reason for inspector's recommendation

- During the inspection, the inspector identified that the current premises would not comfortably accommodate 25 full-time pupils. Following discussions with the proprietor, the inspector agreed that 15 pupils would be a more suitable number at this time.

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Not applicable	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	Not applicable	15
Number of part-time pupils	Not applicable	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Not applicable	15
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	Up to 15
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	Up to 15

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	2	4
Number of part-time teaching staff	0	0
Number of staff in the welfare provision	4	4

Information about this proposed school

- The proposed school is housed in a former commercial property in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. It is currently operating as an unregistered alternative provider.
- Leaders propose to work closely with Stoke-on-Trent local authority, but will accept referrals from other local authorities.
- Pupils who will attend the school are likely to have had a disrupted education and/or be at risk of permanent exclusion from school because of behavioural difficulties or non-attendance. Many pupils are likely to have SEND. Some may have an EHC plan, predominantly for social, emotional and mental health needs.
- The school will not have a religious character. The proprietor does not intend to use any alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This pre-registration inspection was commissioned by the department for education to determine whether or not the proposed school is likely to meet the independent school standards if it is given permission to open. This is the proposed school's first pre-registration inspection.
- The inspection was conducted on site.
- Before and during the on-site inspection, the lead inspector reviewed a range of documents and policies provided by the proprietor.
- During the on-site visit, the inspector met with both directors of the proprietor body and other staff. He discussed the school's plans and proposals. This included the proposed curriculum, health, welfare and pastoral arrangements, safeguarding, admissions procedures and arrangements for communicating with parents and local authorities.
- The inspector examined the premises with school leaders and checked the single central register of employment checks on staff.

Inspection team

Martin Pye, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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