

# Lewis Charlton Learning Centre

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

**Inspection date**

6 July 2022

**Overall outcome**

**The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 1. Quality of education provided

#### *Paragraph 3, 3(g)*

- The proprietor has ensured that there is a framework in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly. Teachers use this assessment information to plan teaching so that pupils can progress. This framework is in place for a wide range of subjects, including phonics.
- The school meets the requirement of the independent school standard that was checked in this part.

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

- The arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils are not effective. The arrangements do not have regard to the latest national guidance. A small number of pupils have not attended the school recently, including for significant periods of time. Leaders have not carried out rigorous enough checks to ensure that these absent pupils are safe and well. These pupils are potentially at risk.
- The school's safeguarding policy is on the school's website.

#### *Paragraph 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c)*

- Leaders have recently updated the behaviour policy. Appropriate sanctions are adopted when necessary. This policy is now implemented effectively. Pupils earn points for behaving well. These points are exchanged for various rewards.
- Leaders keep records of the sanctions imposed for serious misbehaviour.

#### *Paragraph 11*

- Leaders have recently updated the health and safety policy. Staff roles and responsibilities are set out. Arrangements, for example of first-aid administration and the signing in of visitors and contractors, are clear.

#### *Paragraph 14*

- Recently, the proprietor has ensured that pupils are properly supervised during the day through the appropriate deployment of school staff. Leaders take into account the information found on pupils' education, health and care (EHC) plans when considering staff to pupil ratios. Pupils say that there are plenty of staff at the school.

#### *Paragraph 16, 16(a), 16(b)*

- Leaders have recently improved their oversight of risk assessment. Appropriate actions are identified to mitigate against identified risks. Risk assessments for off-site visits are appropriate. They are not generic. They take into account the specific needs of individual pupils and the risks associated with the specific visit. Staff accompany pupils who attend any unregistered alternative provision.
- The school does not meet all the independent school standards that were checked in these parts.

### 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) 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)*

- Leaders understand the need to check staff's suitability to work with children. All relevant checks have been completed.
- Leaders record all pre-employment checks on the school's single central record.
- The school meets the independent school standards in this part.

### Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

#### *Paragraph 25*

- The proprietor has ensured that the school premises, accommodation and facilities are maintained to an appropriate standard. There is a fire risk assessment in place, as well as electrical testing certificates. Leaders undertake frequent checks of the temperature of the hot water, and of the suitability of the fire doors and emergency lighting.
- The school meets the independent school standard that was checked in this part.

### Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- The proprietor has not ensured that leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their roles. Leaders have not effectively fulfilled their roles to ensure that the standards relating to pupil safety and well-being are consistently met. They have not checked on absent pupils to see if they are safe and well. This puts these pupils potentially at risk.
- The school does not meet the independent school standard in this part.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school does not meet 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, as set out in the annex of this report. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

## School details

Unique reference number	134438
DfE registration number	855/6020
Inspection number	10245621

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	47
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	11
Number of part-time pupils	11
Proprietor	Lewis Charlton Limited
Chair	Zaheer Esat
Headteacher	Malcolm Kerridge
Annual fees (day pupils)	£67,350 to £107,850
Telephone number	01530 560775
Website	<a href="http://www.lewischarltonschool.org.uk">www.lewischarltonschool.org.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:enquiries@lewischarltonschool.org">enquiries@lewischarltonschool.org</a>
Dates of previous standard inspection	22 to 25 March 2022

## Information about this school

- Lewis Charlton Learning Centre is an independent special school. All pupils have an EHC plan. Most pupils have social, emotional and mental health needs. Some pupils have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.
- The school is located across five sites. Four sites are found in the centre of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. These are: Abney Hastings and The Haven, North Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

Leicestershire LE65 1HU; Lewis Charlton Village, South Street, Ashby-de-la Zouch LE65 1BR; and Space City, North Street, Ashby de-la-Zouch LE65 1HS. Space City is still registered as a site that the school uses, although it is currently unoccupied. The post-16 provision takes place at Lewis Charlton College, located on Moira Road, Donisthorpe DE12 7QE.

- The school no longer uses the premises known as The Lantern, North Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch LE65 1HS.
- Pupils travel to the school from several local authorities.
- The school uses five unregistered alternative providers for pupils to receive some of their education. The school also uses two registered alternative providers.
- The school's most recent standard inspection took place from 22 to 25 March 2022.

## Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education (DfE) requested that Ofsted conduct an emergency inspection in response to complaints received by them.
- The inspection focused on the school's procedures for safeguarding pupils, staff recruitment, health and safety, risk assessment and the levels of pupil supervision.
- The inspection was unannounced.
- Inspectors scrutinised a wide range of documents and policies. They visited the school sites, held meetings with the executive headteacher, headteacher, school leaders, staff and pupils.
- A telephone conversation was held with the proprietor.

## Inspection team

Peter Stonier, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Di Mullan

Her Majesty's Inspector

## **Annex. Compliance with regulatory requirements**

### **The school failed to meet the following independent school standards**

#### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

- 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.

#### **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.

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