

The Llewellyn School and Nursery

Quex Park Estate, Birchington, Margate, Kent CT7 0BB

Inspection date

28 July 2022

Overall outcome

The school is unlikely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7–7(b), 32(1) and 32(1)(c)

- The safeguarding policy is compliant with current guidelines and published on the school's website. Staff understand the extra vulnerabilities that pupils with complex special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) face.
- Leaders have ensured that key staff have accessed additional training commensurate with their responsibilities to safeguard children or to support the specific individual requirements of pupils.
- Staff understand what to do if they have concerns. They have confidence in leaders to do the right thing when needed. Oversight from a named governor helps leaders to keep pupils and staff safe. This includes ensuring that the school meets all aspects of the independent school standards linked to welfare, health and safety.

Paragraphs 11, 12, 14 and 16–16(b)

- Leaders take the welfare, health and safety of pupils and staff seriously. Key policies are in place and fit for purpose. Checks on the school's premises are ongoing and ensure that the environment, both indoor and outdoor, is a safe place to be.
- A fire risk assessment is in place and completed by an external specialist. Safety checks on alarms and equipment such as fire extinguishers are also fully in place and completed by suitably qualified experts.
- Ratios of staff to pupils are high. This is mostly due to pupils' very complex needs. Because of the nature of the provision, pupils are supervised closely during their time in school. This includes at breaktimes and when using the school's extensive grounds.
- A suitable risk assessment policy is in place. Risk assessments cover a multitude of aspects of day-to-day school life. This might include using the school's own minibuses, or for visits into the local community. Risk assessments also cover activities such as using the school's outdoor environment, or to assess individual pupil's personal requirements linked to their complex SEND.

- This material change application proposes an additional 10 pupils to the school's current registration of up to 14. It is not clear that the current accommodation at the school is suitable for up to 24 pupils. Simply put, an additional 10 pupils may compromise the welfare, health and safety of current pupils and staff because the accommodation available, including access for pupils who need support with their mobility, is not big enough.
- School leaders have not ensured that all relevant standards assessed in part 3 are likely to be met if the material change is approved.

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

Paragraphs 18(2)–18(2)(e), 18(3), 21(1)–21(3)(b) and 21(6)

- Leaders fully understand what checks are required on adults at the school. Details of these checks are contained in the school's single central record, which is compliant with current guidelines and contains all the information required.
- Pre-employment checks are thorough. Key members of staff have undertaken safer recruitment training. If the material change is approved, systems and procedures for the recruitment of new staff and checks on adults will likely continue to be fit for purpose.
- The school does not use supply staff.
- School leaders have ensured that all relevant standards in part 4 are likely to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1)–29(2)

- All aspects of the relevant requirements of part 5 were met during the standard inspection which took place in June 2022. It should be noted that this report is still subject to confirmation and had not been published at the time of this material change inspection. The school does not offer residential accommodation.
- Leaders intend to use the current premises and accommodation to expand the school's roll. Plans are also in place to increase the school's accommodation with additional permanent buildings on the same site over the next two to three years.
- The current accommodation is likely to be able to safely cater for an additional six pupils. This is also very dependent on the specific complex needs of individual pupils who may attend the school, many of whom require assistance with mobility.
- While the school has adequate classroom capacity for the expansion of the roll to 20, it is noted that facilities such as the staffroom are currently being used as a teaching space when required. While manageable in the short term, it is clear that the capacity to increase numbers beyond 20 pupils is limited at this time.
- During the standard inspection which took place in June 2022, HMI felt that expanding the school's capacity to 24 would place additional strain on staff and pupils alike. This is particularly the case when pupils' very complex needs are considered.
- Part 5 is unlikely to be met if the material change is approved in full. Expanding the roll to 24 at this point in time may compromise the school's ability to meet paragraph

25 of part 5. This is especially the case when pupils' complex SEND is taken into account.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(c)

- Leaders have continued to ensure that the independent school standards are met over time. The school was recently subject to a standard inspection when the overall effectiveness was judged to be good, safeguarding effective, and all relevant independent school standards found to be met.
- Leaders' rationale for the material change is based on long-term plans to add to the school's present accommodation. These long-term plans are well thought through but do not effectively address the short-term reality of the space required to adequately provide for up to ten additional pupils. Leaders now recognise this.
- Part 8 is unlikely to continue to be met if this material change application is approved in full.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is unlikely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

School details

Unique reference number	142859
DfE registration number	886/6143
Inspection number	10246926

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Other independent school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	The Llewellyn School and Nursery CIC
Chair	Sara Llewellyn
Headteacher	Sara Llewellyn (School leader)
Annual fees (day pupils)	£54,000 to £70,000
Telephone number	01843 845 033
Website	www.thellewellyn.school
Email address	ls.headteacher@gmail.com
Dates of previous standard inspection	28 to 30 June 2022

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	2 to 25	Not applicable	Not applicable
Number of pupils on the school roll	14	24	20

Reason for inspector's recommendations

Additional accommodation to increase the capacity to 24 pupils is not yet built. Leaders intend to build additional accommodation at some time in the future. Capacity for an additional six pupils (not 10) in current accommodation is sensible and proportionate at this stage. The sole director is in agreement with HMI regarding this recommendation.

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	14	24
Number of part-time pupils	0	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	14	24
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	14	24
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	14	24

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	11	16
Number of part-time teaching staff	11	16

Information about this school

- The Llewellyn School and Nursery caters for pupils who have profound, multiple learning difficulties, including multisensory, communication and physical development needs.
- The school is currently registered for up to 14 pupils aged from two to 25.
- At the time of this inspection, the school did not have any pupils in the post-16 age range or children in early years.
- The proprietor company has a sole director who is also the school leader. The school has a small governing board which works with the proprietor to provide governance. A new chair of the governing board has recently been appointed.

- The school's last standard inspection took place in June 2022. This proposed material change was identified by the proprietor at that time and discussed with inspectors.
- The inspection report from the June 2022 standard inspection was not yet published at the time this material change inspection took place.
- The school was subject to a material change inspection in February 2019 to extend the upper age range of pupils from 12 to 16. This material change was approved.
- The school had a second material change inspection in February 2020 to approve a change of premises. Unmet standards were found at that time, leading to the school having to produce an action plan. The action plan was approved and the monitoring inspection that followed in May 2021 found that all previously unmet standards were met.
- The Department for Education (DfE) further increased the age range of the school from two to 16 to two to 25 in August 2021.
- The school does not currently use alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- The inspection was carried out at the request of the DfE after the proprietor applied for a material change to increase the maximum number of pupils from 14 to 24.
- The purpose of the inspection was to check whether the school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the requested material change is approved.
- This was the first material change inspection relating to this request to increase pupil numbers to 24.
- The inspector also led the school's recent standard inspection which took place at the end of June 2022. At that inspection, the school's overall effectiveness was judged to be good, safeguarding effective, and all relevant independent school standards were met.
- This current material change application was discussed with the school's sole director during the recent standard inspection. As a consequence, this inspection has largely been carried out as a desktop exercise, which included additional telephone conversations with the school's sole director to confirm the inspector's recommendations regarding this application.
- During the school's recent standard inspection, inspectors checked a range of policies and documents, including the school's single central record. They also reviewed the school's website and other records regarding the welfare, health and safety of pupils and staff. A full range of inspection activities commensurate with a standard inspection was completed during that inspection.
- The lead inspector further considered all independent school standards requested by the DfE in its inspection commissioning form for this material change inspection.

Inspection team

Clive Close, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Parent View

You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/ofsted.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022