

Education and residential inspection summary for the Springfields Academy

Curzon Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0DS

Inspection dates: 8 to 10 March 2022

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the residential provision is: good

What is it like to attend this school?

All pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and staff understand these needs extremely well. Staff also understand how these needs relate to each unique pupil's interests and ambitions. As a result, pupils are successfully helped to attain the school's stated goal of living 'safe and independent lives'. Pupils are happy at the school and attend well. Nonetheless, there are aspects of the educational curriculum that pupils follow that are not rigorous enough.

Pupils behave well, and staff know how to help them to do this. The number of occasions where pupils are held has reduced significantly over time. The school has clear systems to enable pupils to raise concerns about bullying. Pupils say that staff usually deal with any bullying well but that, on occasions, staff do not always get to the root of the problem.

Pupils experience a wide range of therapy appropriate to their needs. Therapy is threaded through pupils' timetables and is seen as integral to their educational success. For example, the use of animal therapy has led to an increased interest from pupils in following an animal care curriculum pathway. Leaders have listened and made this happen.

The inspectors made **one** recommendation to help the school improve, covering the curriculum and how it is taught.

What is it like to stay at this school?

Children enjoy their residential experience and make good progress because their health, education, well-being and independence are prioritised and well promoted. One parent was keen to tell the inspector how their child's health had improved significantly because of the sensitive support the child receives to manage his health needs.

Children are relaxed and comfortable in their environment. They say that they enjoy staying in the residential provision because they make new friends and have lots of fun. Children are positive about the adults who care for them, telling the inspector that the adults are kind and fun to spend time with. The adults who support the children have the right skills and experience to build positive and trusting relationships with them.

After-school time is busy and productive. Children are helped to channel their energy positively, making good use of the games and resources available to them. The broad range of activities promotes children's health, well-being and social skills effectively. Parents really like the photos they receive of their children enjoying the activities.

Children's views are actively sought and are used to influence change in the residential provision. For example, because of listening to children, positive changes have been made to the decor of the residential accommodation, the food provided and the activities on offer.

The residential team refers to itself as 'a small family' and speaks about the children like that of a proud parent. The team implements boundaries, structure and routines effectively, which help the children to feel safe and secure in the residential provision. Children get on well together and with the staff.

Feedback received from social workers is positive. These professionals confirmed that children have made significant progress because of the support they receive. They said that the head of care and staff maintain regular communication, and safeguarding concerns are always reported in a timely manner.

The school **does not meet the national minimum standards for residential special schools** relating to promoting positive behaviour and relationships and leadership and management.

The inspectors made **two recommendations** to help the school improve, covering contingency plans to provide temporary staff cover and record keeping of team meetings and staff supervision.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/25/145198>.

- View the full inspection for the residential provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC039093>.



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