

Inspection of Goodwin Academy

Hamilton Road, Deal CT14 9BD

Inspection dates: 18 and 19 October 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Sixth-form provision

Good

Previous inspection grade

Not previously inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils develop a strong sense of who they are and what they believe. They learn to speak confidently and to explore the views of others in a respectful way. Pupils want to work with staff to make sure everyone feels welcome. They take on roles such as joining the junior leadership team or become an anti-bullying ambassador.

Pupils attend a wide range of trips planned by staff to help develop pupils' curiosity of the world beyond Deal. Trips to universities raise pupils' aspirations for what they want to achieve.

Some pupils do not behave well in lessons and learning can be disrupted. This is because the expectations of how pupils should behave are not always high enough. Pupils know how to report bullying and anti-bullying ambassadors work with leaders to help establish a culture of kindness. However, pupils do not always feel that staff deal with bullying consistently well.

While leaders have designed a thoughtfully planned curriculum, pupils do not consistently learn well. Staff do not regularly check that pupils understand what they have learned. Some lessons move on too quickly, whereas others do not give pupils much needed time to practise new skills. As a result, some pupils lose interest and confidence in their learning.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders have a clear understanding of what pupils must know and do for every stage of learning. Subject leaders order learning, so knowledge builds over time. However, while teachers plan lessons which aim to cover the skills and knowledge of the curriculum, learning is not always being broken down into smaller manageable parts. Furthermore, checks are not regularly being made to make sure pupils know and understand what they have been taught. Pupils have gaps in learning and, consequently, struggle to connect important ideas together. This means that pupils do not achieve consistently well in key stage 3 and 4.

Leaders ensure that the curriculum remains ambitious for all pupils, regardless of their ability or level of need. Pupils who attend the specialist resource-based provision receive support from expert staff. Staff use the guidance in pupils' education, health and care plans (EHCPs) to adapt learning to support pupils' achievement of ambitious learning goals. In addition, leaders ensure that pupils who find reading more difficult get the additional support they need. This helps them access learning across the curriculum.

However, not all pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) get the same quality of help. For pupils who have additional needs but do not require an EHCP, leaders write plans which set out the support required to help these pupils

learn well. However, leaders do not ensure that all staff use these plans effectively. Consequently, these pupils struggle to achieve as well as their peers.

Leaders do not ensure that all pupils follow the school rules well enough. New expectations around being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' have been introduced but some pupils continue to not behave as expected. The behaviour support plans put in place lack detail and clear targets. The lack of effective review of these plans means pupils are not learning the value of following rules and their behaviour does not change. For these pupils, they enter a cycle of ongoing suspensions and detentions, which further disengages them with learning.

Students in the sixth form speak highly of the support they get from their subject teachers. Teachers clearly articulate knowledge in a way that promotes pupils to think deeply. Leaders have carefully selected courses, which meet the needs of students and can lead to ambitious futures. Students value the support provided to make applications to university. All pupils receive regular and relevant careers advice, which includes visits from guest speakers to talk about local apprenticeships. Clubs such as the 'Culture Vulture' club develop pupils' social skills and confidence.

Governors and leaders place a high priority on improving pupils' attendance. As a result, attendance is improving for some pupils but not all. Support for those not attending regularly is not well coordinated. Records are not kept in a way that makes it clear how effective support has been in improving attendance, or what the next steps should be.

Staff speak highly of the support and training they receive from leaders and the trust. Leaders and governors regularly provide feedback to staff to help them develop their skills and expertise further. Leaders seek to reduce the workload of staff through the sharing of resources and working cooperatively with other schools in the trust.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders identify any pupils who may be at a greater risk of harm. They maintain communication with external agencies, such as the police, to keep pupils safe. Staff have regular training to ensure they are alert to any signs that a pupil may be at risk. The curriculum helps pupils learn how to stay safe and maintain positive, healthy relationships.

While leaders do record safeguarding concerns, these records are not kept in a comprehensive order. This makes it difficult for leaders to have an oversight of the support given to pupils and their families. Leaders know this and are taking actions to make the necessary improvements.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- The curriculum has not yet consistently been implemented in every subject. This means pupils have some gaps in their knowledge and skills. Leaders must continue to embed their plans, so staff have the expertise they need to help pupils achieve well.
- Some pupils with SEND, who do not have an EHCP, do not get the support they need in lessons. This means that they are not achieving as well as they could. Leaders must ensure that all staff consistently use the carefully developed support plans to adapt learning to ensure all pupils get the support they need.
- Some pupils find it more difficult to manage their behaviour. Learning, therefore, can be disrupted. Leaders must continue to review the support given to staff and pupils to ensure a consistent approach in improving behaviour.
- Leaders have not ensured that they have a clear oversight of safeguarding and attendance records. Analysis of what support pupils are getting and whether this is effective is, therefore, more difficult. Leaders must ensure that improvements are made to the record keeping process, so they have an accurate oversight of all aspects of safeguarding and attendance.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	146624
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10241594
Type of school	Secondary
School category	Academy sponsor-led
Age range of pupils	11 to 18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in sixth-form provision	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	911
Of which, number on roll in the sixth form	53
Appropriate authority	Board of trustees
Chair of trust	Gerard Newman
Principal	Simon Smith
Website	www.goodwinacademy.org.uk
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected

Information about this school

- The school is part of the Thinking Schools Academies Trust.
- The school uses two registered alternative providers to provide education and support for a very small number of pupils.
- The school meets the requirements of the Baker Clause, which requires schools to provide pupils in Years 8 to 13 with information about approved technical educational qualifications and apprenticeships.
- The school has a specialist resource base with places for 16 pupils. This provides support for pupils who have speech, language or social communication disorder.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, science, physical education, history and modern foreign languages. Deep dives included visiting lessons, looking at pupils' work, and talking to leaders, teachers and pupils.
- Inspectors held a wide range of meetings with the principal, the head of sixth form, other senior and curriculum leaders, the special educational needs coordinator and teaching and support staff. The lead inspector met with the director of education and the chief executive officer for the trust as well as the chair of the local governing body, trustees and a member of the academy advisory board.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors viewed the school's website and policies, met with the designated safeguarding leads, spoke with pupils and staff, checked school records of safeguarding checks carried out on adults working at the school and spoke with trustees and governors.
- Inspectors considered the 160 responses to Ofsted's Parent View questionnaire, including 99 free-text comments. They also took account of the responses to the confidential staff and pupil surveys and gathered the views of both staff and pupils throughout the inspection.

Inspection team

Michelle Lower, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Steve Baker	Ofsted Inspector
Scott Norman	Ofsted Inspector
Ed Mather	His Majesty's Inspector

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