

Lighthouse School

24 Clarendon Road, Margate, Kent CT9 2QJ

Inspection date

12 January 2023

Overall outcome

The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7–7(b)

- At the previous monitoring inspection this standard was judged to be met. It was found that leaders possessed strong knowledge and understanding relating to child protection, safeguarding processes and requirements. Leaders were reported to have an ‘acute understanding’ of the impact of childhood trauma, as well as expert knowledge of the additional vulnerabilities of those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These high standards have been maintained.
- Since the previous monitoring inspection, there has been a change in safeguarding governor. The new governor is external to the school and brings a wealth of expertise. Thorough and appropriate systems are in place to oversee safeguarding culture and practice. Rigour and accountability for safeguarding have continued to strengthen since the previous inspection.
- All policies relating to the welfare, health and safety of pupils are available on the school’s website. Policies are easy to navigate, provide clear and helpful guidance and reference relevant legislation and statutory requirements.
- This standard continues to be met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- The safeguarding policy is readily available on the school website. The document is up to date and references the latest government guidance on safeguarding. The policy is also available to parents and carers in hard copy directly from the school.
- This standard continues to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(b)

- At the monitoring inspection of February 2022, it was found that extensive improvements had been secured and that leaders had successfully rectified all unmet

standards in parts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Despite this, as certain improvements were very new, it was considered too soon to judge that the independent school standards were 'consistently' met in full. Consequently, two standards in part 8 remained unmet.

- Changes have been made to the leadership of Lighthouse School. The previous headteacher has left the school to take up a new post. One of the former deputy headteachers has been appointed as headteacher, with the other remaining in post as deputy. All leaders in new positions bring suitable knowledge, expertise and ambition for the continuing improvement of the school. Leaders, and the whole staff team, demonstrate the utmost commitment to the education and welfare of the pupils.
- Systems and processes, such as the recording and tracking of safeguarding concerns and consequent actions, are now fully embedded. The inspector scrutinised chronologies and found these to be clear, informative and helpful. Evidence demonstrates that leaders act promptly in the face of concerns, refer to other agencies when appropriate and utilise a range of bespoke strategies to support individual pupils.
- Systems to record and monitor staff recruitment checks are well established. Leaders and managers have undertaken relevant training. Those involved in any aspect of the recruitment process know precisely what checks must be made and how and when.
- Previously unmet standards relating to part 8 of the independent school standards are now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets 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. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

The school now meets the following independent school standards

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.

School details

Unique reference number	130979
DfE registration number	886/6110
Inspection number	10252789

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 special school
Age range of pupils	8 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	30
Number of part-time pupils	None
Proprietor	Acorn Homes (Group) Limited
Chair	David Knowles
Headteacher	Bonnie Tate
Annual fees (day pupils)	£37,000 to £59, 000
Telephone number	01843 482055
Website	lighthouseschools.co.uk/
Email address	t.collins@lighthouseschools.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	22 to 24 June 2021

Information about this school

- The Lighthouse School is registered for 54 pupils, aged from seven to 19. All pupils who attend the school have SEND associated with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Almost all pupils have an education, health and care plan. Approximately half of the pupils on roll are children looked after.
- The school operates from two sites, Clarendon Road and Northdown House. The latter is the main site.
- The school currently uses one unregistered alternative provision.
- The last standard inspection took place in June 2021. A progress monitoring and material

change inspection took place in February 2022. This was the second monitoring inspection of Lighthouse School.

Information about this inspection

- The inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous inspection.
- This inspection was carried out without notice.
- The school's action plan, required by the Department for Education (DfE), was evaluated by Ofsted on 1 June 2022. The action plan was accepted as fit for purpose with no requirement for modifications. The DfE confirmed acceptance of the action plan on 15 July 2022.
- During the monitoring inspection, the inspector met extensively with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher and the proprietor. In particular, discussions related to leadership and management of the school and progress made since the previous monitoring inspection. Leaders shared documents, such as the school improvement plan, the completed action plan and safeguarding bulletins, with the inspector.
- The inspector made brief visits to all classrooms and spoke informally to staff and pupils.
- The single central record and a range of documentation relating to safeguarding, welfare, health and safety were scrutinised. The inspector also considered wider documentation relating to all aspects of leadership and management of the school.

Inspection team

Hilary Macdonald, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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