

JP Alternative Education

Shooting Butts Centre, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley WS15 2UB

Inspection date

24 March 2023

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material changes relating to the school provision are implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7, 7(a), 7(b) and 32(1)(c)

- The school's safeguarding and child protection policy reflects the most recent statutory guidance and is available on request.
- Leaders have completed appropriate safeguarding and safer recruitment training. They are aware of their duties and the importance of establishing and maintaining a strong safeguarding culture. Leaders have a strong understanding of the varied needs and challenges their pupils are likely to present.
- Staff complete appropriate training so that they have the knowledge they need to be able to identify concerns and take swift and appropriate action. There are regular briefings and updates which help keep safeguarding at the forefront of everybody's mind. Staff new to the school complete relevant training linked to safeguarding and pupils' welfare.
- Leaders display a secure understanding of managing behaviour and prevention of harm.
- Leaders have ensured that there is a strong culture of safeguarding at the school

Paragraph 11

- The health and safety policy is comprehensive and regularly reviewed. The proprietor carries out regular and detailed checks to ensure that the policy is being implemented effectively.

Paragraph 12

- The school complies with fire safety regulations. Fire safety checks are undertaken regularly. Records are completed in detail and confirm that actions are taken promptly following identification of any concerns.

Paragraph 14

- Leaders have carefully considered the supervision of pupils to meet their needs and to keep them safe during the school day. This work includes the consideration of risks

relating to a wide range of outdoor educational activities. Plans are in place to manage supervision arrangements if the number of full-time pupils on the school site increases.

Paragraph 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- Leaders have established a rigorous and robust approach to assessing risk that supports the safeguarding and welfare of all pupils. Risk assessments are carried out by suitable experienced and knowledgeable staff. Risk assessments are reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

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), 20(6), 20(6)(a), 20(6)(a)(i), 20(6)(a)(ii), 20(6)(b), 20(6)(b)(i), 20(6)(b)(ii), 20(6)(b)(iii), 20(6)(c), 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) and 21(6)

- The single central record contains the full range of pre-employment checks. It is stored centrally in an electronic format.
- The school has appropriate recruitment procedures in place. This includes obtaining two references and carrying out a medical check prior to appointment.
- Leaders do not use supply staff to cover staff absence.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b), 23(1)(c), 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(2), 25, 26, 27, 27(a), 27(b), 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 28(2), 28(2)(a), 28(2)(b), 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)

- The school is situated in a large area of forest on a site that was used to house evacuees from nearby cities during the Second World War. There are five separate buildings on the site. To prepare for the increase in pupil numbers, leaders have created a number of new learning spaces, including a new building for younger pupils. In the new building, there is a classroom space and two smaller rooms for one-to-one work, a kitchen, three individual toilets and handwashing facilities. Four new pods have been created for one-to-one or small-group work with older pupils. The four new pods for older pupils are located by the main buildings, and pupils can access toilets and a kitchen within the main building. In one of the original buildings, there is now an additional classroom and three smaller group rooms.
- The site is located on extensive grounds where pupils can participate in a wide range of outdoor educational activities. There is suitable external lighting outside each of the buildings.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- The proprietor body is made up of four directors. The chair of the body is also the headteacher of the school.
- Leaders demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the independent school standards (the standards).
- Leaders have already developed the school site and educational provision to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers. At the time of the material change inspection, there were 20 full-time pupils on roll and 35 in part-time places. Leaders propose to increase this number to 40 full-time pupils.
- Leaders are vigilant in promoting the health and safety and welfare of pupils.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- Leaders have ensured that they have a suitable accessibility plan in place that meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely 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	148248
DfE registration number	860/6084
Inspection number	10275852

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 school
Proprietor	JP Alternative Education Limited
Chair	Julian Porter
Headteacher	Julian Porter
Annual fees (day pupils)	£125 to £275 per day
Telephone number	01889582864
Website	None
Email address	julian.porter@jpalternativeeducation.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	21 to 23 June 2022

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	10 to 17	10 to 17	10 to 17
Number of pupils on the school roll	20	40	40

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	20	40
Number of part-time pupils	35	35
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	19	40
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	10	20
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	10	20

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	20	29
Number of part-time teaching staff	3	6
Number of staff in the welfare provision	42	46

Information about this school

- The school provides education for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. Most pupils have an education, health and care plan. Many of the pupils will have been excluded or will be at risk of exclusion from another school.
- The school does not use alternative education provision.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education to consider the school's request for a material change. The proprietor body would like to increase the maximum permitted number of full-time pupils on the school roll from 20 to 40 pupils.
- The purpose of the inspection was to establish whether the school is likely to meet the relevant standards if the registration authority granted the requested material change.
- The inspector met with a representative of the proprietor body, who is also the headteacher, and other leaders.
- The inspector scrutinised the information and policies provided by the school.
- The inspector met with the designated safeguarding lead to review the school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils and staff. The inspector looked at the school's single central record of the checks that leaders carry out before staff are employed to work at the school.
- The inspector reviewed additional documentation, including the school's health and safety policy, risk assessments and fire safety checks.
- The inspector toured the school site.

Inspection team

Emma Gater, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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