

# Education and boarding inspection summary for Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School Limited

14 Love Lane, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 2EA

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Inspection dates: 16 to 18 May 2023

## **Outcome**

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

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

## **What is it like to attend this school?**

- Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School is a welcoming, nurturing and tolerant community. Leaders and staff create a culture where pupils feel confident to be themselves. Pupils relish coming to school. They describe the school as 'one large family' and enjoy participating in an extensive range of daily activities.
- The school has high expectations for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Leaders give serious attention to pupils' social and cultural development as well as achievement in academic subjects. All of this means that by the time pupils leave the school they are confident, articulate and well prepared for the future.
- Adults and pupils build trusting relationships. Smiles and cheerful interactions are commonplace. Adults take the time to identify and celebrate pupils' unique strengths. This helps everyone to feel safe and valued. Pupils are clear that bullying is exceptionally rare. If an incident should occur, pupils know that teachers will 'help to put things right'.
- Pupils are polite, friendly and courteous. They behave very well in class and during other times of the day. They demonstrate consistently positive attitudes towards their education. Pupils are proud of their school and achievements. They go out of their way to make visitors feel welcome.

The inspectors made **two** recommendations to help the school improve, covering improving the curriculum further so that learning builds well over time in all subjects and teachers' expertise in supporting pupils with SEND.

The school **meets all of the independent school standards**.

## **What is it like to board at this school?**

- Children at the school welcome children from other countries and enjoy sharing their homes and experiences with them. Children in the school recognise how much the exchange boarders enrich their lives and how they support the visitor's development.
- Visiting children build excellent relationships with their host families. They feel supported, cared for and 'part of the family'. Visiting children experience numerous activities and trips out. This means that they can experience the wider culture during their stay.
- Children who visit the school build long-term relationships with other pupils which help them create happy memories and long-term friendships
- Children's views are well incorporated into the work of the school. Staff offer weekly pastoral meetings to support children to develop their English skills and to give them space to voice any concerns or worries. The school independent visitor also visits every child who comes to stay at the school. These measures mean children have ways of raising any worries and helps them to settle well and get the most from this experience.
- The school promotes individuality and values children for this. Staff encourage boarders to share their culture with other children. This builds children's confidence and helps their development while at the school.

The school **does not meet the national minimum standards for boarding schools** relating to Standard 23 – Lodgings and host families, and 2 – Management and development of boarding.

The inspectors made one recommendation to help the school improve, covering **training for host families**.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/103876>.
- View the full inspection report for the boarding provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/1/SC025000>.



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