

Wilds Lodge School

Stamford Road, Empingham, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8QQ

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Inspection date

16/05/2023

Context of the inspection

This progress monitoring inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education to assess the progress the school has made in meeting the failed national minimum standards from the inspection in October 2022. These standards related to safeguarding children, management oversight and the safe administration and disposal of medication.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Staff and managers have worked hard to address the concerns raised in the last inspection.

Despite having a new senior leadership team, a lot has been achieved. Incidents of children going on the roof have been significantly reduced. Staff have a good understanding of what to do if children go onto the roof. Proactive environmental changes have occurred to make it difficult for children to access the roof. For example, boarding has been used to raise the height of a roof. This has prevented children accessing this roof, and it is attractive. Furthermore, children have new play equipment that is designed for children who like to climb but enables them to do so safely. Younger children have also accessed an external educational provision that is tailor-made to address the risks associated with climbing on the roof. This has become an integral part of the curriculum for Year 6 pupils.

The management of safeguarding incidents has improved. There is better interagency working, management oversight and accountability. Risk assessments provide good information for staff to help them support children to manage their own behaviour.

Staff have a better understanding of whistle-blowing procedures. The process followed for allegations against staff is much improved.

Bedroom-sharing is carefully managed. Any concerns are quickly resolved or closely monitored. Detailed work is completed about harmful sexual behaviour. There is a harmful sexual behaviour coordinator who works closely with the children and staff.

Training and development are enhancing staff skills and knowledge to improve responses to safeguarding concerns and children's behaviour. Children are safer at this school because of a clear, coordinated response to the safety and well-being of children.

The medication administration and disposal systems have been strengthened. There have been no medication errors since the last inspection. Care staff have received additional training in the safe administration of medicines and have undergone competence assessments prior to administering medication. The receipt and disposal of medication are much safer. This could be further strengthened by the administration staff, who now handle medication, having training in medication handling. This would give them an understanding of the importance of safe medication handling.

Importantly, children, generally, say they like staying in the residential provision and get on well with staff. Staff know the children well and use good strategies to support children when they are upset or anxious. Children enjoy the large, landscaped grounds and the wealth of activities they have access to.

National minimum standards

The school has made good progress and now meets all the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

Point for improvement

- The registered person should consider providing medication training for administration staff who handle medication in the school. (Residential special schools: national minimum standards 12.8)

Inspection team

Joanne Vyas

Lead Social Care Inspector

Cathey Moriarty

Social Care Inspector

Information about this school

Wilds Lodge School is an independent residential and day school for boys aged between seven and 18 years with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. It currently provides boarding for approximately 52 children. The school is surrounded on all sides by farmland. The main site accommodation is divided into two house groups within the main house and an additional residential site a short distance away. The children are divided into groups according to their age and vulnerability.

School details

Unique reference number

Social care unique reference number

SC069231

DfE registration number

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Type of school

Residential Special School

Number of boarders on roll

70

Gender of boarders

Mixed

Age range of boarders

5 to 18

Headteacher

Toby Oakley

Date of previous boarding inspection

10/10/2022

Telephone number

01780767254

Email address

office@wildslodgeschool.co.uk

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