

Willow Park School

Newbold-on-Avon Rfc, Parkfield Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 1EZ

Inspection date

27 July 2023

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraph 2(1), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b), 2(1)(b)(i), 2(1)(b)(ii), 2(2), 2(2)(a), 2(2)(b), 2(2)(d), 2(2)(d)(i) and 2(2)(d)(ii)

- The proprietor body intends for the proposed school to provide education for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils will usually have an education, health and care plan (EHC plan).
- The proprietor has ensured that a curriculum policy and appropriate schemes of work are in place. The curriculum is organised to ensure pupils learn a sufficiently broad range of subjects and promotes fundamental British values.
- Following the last pre-registration inspection, leaders have ensured that they have a sound understanding of how reading will be taught. They will ensure that reading will be given an appropriately high priority within the curriculum. Leaders intend to provide a wide range of engaging texts to capture pupils' interest. Leaders plan for staff to receive phonics training when they are appointed.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraph 2(2)(h) and 2(2)(i)

- The school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme includes content likely to support pupils' personal development.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraph 2A(1), 2A(1)(a), 2A(1)(c), 2A(1)(d), 2A(1)(e), 2A(1)(f), 2A(1)(g) and 2A(2)

- Leaders have taken account of the most recent statutory guidance on relationships and sex education (RSE). The school's RSE policy provides guidance about its approach to teaching this.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraphs 3, 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h), 3(i), 3(j) and 4

- Leaders have procedures and policies in place to ensure that pupils will acquire new knowledge and make good progress. Leaders will ensure that teachers have good subject knowledge, present well-planned lessons and use effective teaching methods.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Paragraph 5, 5(a), 5(b), 5(b)(i), 5(b)(ii), 5(b)(iii), 5(b)(iv), 5(b)(v), 5(b)(vi), 5(b)(vii), 5(c), 5(d), 5(d)(i), 5(d)(ii) and 5(d)(iii)

- The PSHE plans reflect the proposed school's aims and ethos. Leaders intend to use a published PSHE curriculum, as well as adapt the curriculum to meet pupils' developing needs.
- Leaders intend that pupils will be taught about a range of religions, faiths and cultures. The PSHE education curriculum includes coverage of British values and protected characteristics, as identified in the Equality Act 2010.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

- Leaders have ensured that the safeguarding and child protection policy reflects the most recent statutory guidance. The policy is reviewed regularly and is published on the school's website.
- 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 understand the needs and challenges their pupils are likely to present.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraphs 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c) and 10

- Leaders' proposed behaviour policy is suitable. It considers the needs of pupils with SEND effectively. The policy outlines appropriate rewards and sanctions for pupils. All new staff will receive an induction to introduce them to the school's behavioural approach. Ongoing training will keep staff knowledge up to date. Behavioural incidents will be recorded on the school's electronic recording system, which leaders will monitor.
- Leaders have written a proposed anti-bullying policy that is appropriate. It explains the different types of bullying that pupils may face, including online bullying.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraphs 11, 12, 13, 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- Leaders have produced suitable policies for first aid, health and safety and risk

assessments.

- Leaders have the appropriate certification to demonstrate that fire safety checks are carried out by the relevant authority.
- Leaders have produced a range of suitable risk assessments to reduce the risks posed to pupils.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Paragraphs 14 and 15

- Leaders have carefully considered the supervision of pupils and have set in place an appropriate staffing structure. Leaders plan to initially admit a small number of pupils. Leaders then plan to gradually increase staff numbers as they gradually increase the number of pupils who are admitted to the school.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Paragraphs 18(1), 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), 19(1), 19(2), 19(2)(a), 19(2)(a)(i), 19(2)(a)(i)(aa), 19(2)(a)(i)(bb), 19(2)(a)(i)(cc), 19(2)(a)(i)(dd), 19(2)(a)(ii), 19(2)(b), 19(2)(c), 19(2)(d), 19(2)(d)(i), 19(2)(d)(ii), 19(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), 21(5), 21(5)(a), 21(5)(a)(i), 21(5)(a)(ii), 21(5)(b), 21(5)(c) and 21(6)

- Leaders demonstrate understanding of the requirements of part 4.
- Leaders ensure that that all the required checks are carried out before a member of staff is employed to work at the school.
- The format of the single central record contains the full range of pre-employment checks. It is stored centrally in an electronic format.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school 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), 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 proposed school will be located in a purpose-built lodge on the grounds of a local rugby club. There is one main classroom and a number of smaller spaces that can be used for group work. There is suitable space for the proposed number of pupils to learn. All rooms are well lit and have good acoustics.
- There are two separate unisex toilets available to pupils, with hot and cold running water and handwashing facilities. There is a shower in the accessible toilet. The temperature of the water is suitably regulated. Both toilets are close to the medical

room. The medical room includes a washbasin and a bed.

- There is an outdoor area that can be used for pupils to play and socialise. The area is suitably secure and well lit.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32(1), 32(1)(a), 32(1)(b), 32(1)(c), 32(1)(f), 32(1)(g), 32(1)(h), 32(1)(i), 32(2), 32(2)(a), 32(2)(b), 32(2)(b)(ii), 32(2)(d), 32(3), 32(3)(a), 32(3)(b), 32(3)(c), 32(3)(d), 32(3)(e), 32(3)(f) and 32(3)(g)

- The proposed school's website provides access to key policies and the school's prospectus.
- All policies, documents and information required for the pre-registration inspection were provided in a timely manner. Where relevant, policies reflect the fact that the proposed school will cater for pupils with SEND.
- An annual written report will provide parents and carers with a range of information about their child's achievement. The report will include information about the pupil's progress and achievements, behaviour and attitudes to learning. There will also be brief termly reports to ensure that parents are kept up to date with their child's progress.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Paragraph 33, 33(a), 33(b), 33(c), 33(d), 33(e), 33(f), 33(g), 33(h), 33(i), 33(i)(i), 33(i)(ii), 33(j), 33(j)(i), 33(j)(ii) and 33(k)

- The school's complaints policy complies with statutory requirements and is available on the school website.
- The policy sets out the timescales in which complaints should be considered, investigated and reported back to the complainant. This includes informal and formal proceedings.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school 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)

- Leaders have responded swiftly to the findings of the previous pre-registration inspection. They have ensured that they have received additional training and guidance. They are clear about the requirements of the independent school standards and have taken a well-informed and committed approach to completing the work needed.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent school 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.

Proposed school details

Unique reference number	149916
DfE registration number	937/6048
Inspection number	10299524

This inspection was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards that are required for registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Other independent special school
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Willow Park School Ltd
Headteacher	Kimberley Preston
Annual fees (day pupils)	£45,000
Telephone number	07742793695
Website	willowparkrugby.wixsite.com/website
Email address	willowparkrugby@gmail.com
Date of previous standard inspection	Not previously inspected

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	Not applicable	5 to 11	5 to 11
Number of pupils on the school roll	Not applicable	20	20

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Not applicable	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	Not applicable	20
Number of part-time pupils	Not applicable	0

Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	Not applicable	20
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	20
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	Not applicable	20

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	Not applicable	4
Number of part-time teaching staff	Not applicable	0
Number of staff in the welfare provision	Not applicable	8

Information about this proposed school

- Willow Park School intends to cater for up to 20 mixed-gender pupils between the ages of five and 11.
- The school will mainly cater for pupils with autism and communication difficulties.
- It is expected that all pupils will have an EHC plan and will be placed in the school by local authorities.
- The proposed school will not have a religious denomination.

Information about this inspection

- This was the proposed school's second pre-registration inspection. It was commissioned by the Department for Education to determine whether the proposed school is likely to meet the independent school standards if it is given permission to open.
- The inspection focused on compliance with the regulatory requirements of the independent school standards, as well as safeguarding procedures and schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.
- The inspector met with one of the proprietors who is also the headteacher.
- The inspector visited all parts of the proposed school premises, including outdoor areas.

Inspection team

Emma Gater, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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