

Tadley Court School

Tadley Common Road, Tadley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG26 3TB

Inspection date

20 September 2023

Overall outcome

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

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7–7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16–16(b), 32(1)(c)

- Safeguarding is given the highest priority at Tadley Court. The proprietor body and leaders understand very clearly the additional vulnerabilities that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can have. This includes risks that they may encounter online and offline. Safeguarding procedures and records show that leaders work effectively with parents, carers and external agencies.
- Leaders are knowledgeable about their responsibilities with respect to protecting and promoting the welfare, health and safety of pupils and staff. All new staff complete a comprehensive catalogue of safeguarding training. This includes specific training about the 'Prevent' duty and online safety. Staff also benefit from the weekly safeguarding briefings, where leaders share and discuss scenarios. They understand what to do to report their concerns about pupils.
- The school's detailed health and safety policy outlines the key roles and responsibilities for health and safety in the school. Suitable written procedures ensure that checks of the school's site and equipment comply with legal and statutory requirements. The building and the recently refurbished classrooms are well maintained.
- The proprietor body has systems and procedures in place to ensure that the school complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Leaders ensure that all fire checks are routinely undertaken to maintain equipment. A fire risk assessment is in place which has been completed by external specialists. Fire extinguishers, alarms and other equipment are all suitably maintained. Regular fire drills take place to ensure that everyone knows the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.
- Levels of supervision are high. Much of the teaching is carried out on a one-to-one basis or in very small groups. Leaders have also thought carefully about how pupils currently attending the school will be affected by the proposed increase in numbers. They intend to increase pupil numbers gradually.
- The school has put in place a range of appropriate written risk assessments. These documents reflect current legislation and are reviewed regularly by the proprietor

body. There are bespoke risk assessments in place for each pupil. Staff monitor the individual pupil risk assessments closely and amend them as required.

- The standards in part 3 are likely to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

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

Paragraph 18(2)(a)–18(2)(e), 18(3), 19(2)–19(2)(d)(ii), 19(3), 20(6)–20(6)(c), 21(1)–21(7)(b)

- The single central record meets statutory requirements. The headteacher has appointed new teachers and some support staff for the anticipated increase in pupil numbers. Appropriate recruitment and suitability checks have been completed for all staff and members of the proprietor body.
- Where the school employs the services of supply staff, leaders carry out meticulous checks and procedures.
- Leaders have a strong understanding of safer recruitment procedures.
- The standards in part 4 are likely to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 23(1)–23(1)(c), 24(1)–24(2), 25–29(1)(b)

- The proprietor body has recently repurposed and refurbished some of the existing residential accommodation to create new classrooms. These will facilitate the proposed increase in pupil numbers. The new classrooms have been adapted and finished to a high standard and provide suitable accommodation to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
- Classrooms are well ventilated, bright and airy. They have suitable heating, lighting and acoustics. Fire escape routes are signposted clearly. Internal and external lighting is in place throughout.
- The school building includes offices and additional spaces for therapy sessions and food technology.
- There are suitable toilet facilities throughout, with hot and cold running water for handwashing. The temperature of the hot water does not pose a scalding risk. Drinking water is readily available and is labelled as such. Current pupils also have their own water bottles, which are refilled as required.
- The building has plenty of showers and changing facilities to cater for the needs of pupils attending the school. The medical room is suitably equipped, including a bed, a locked cabinet for medication and first-aid kits. A toilet and sink are located close by.
- The school's large playgrounds provide ample space for physical education. The vast outdoor areas provide pupils with plenty of space to relax, play and socialise in a peaceful and quiet setting. The school's attractive gardens are divided into different areas for a range of purposes, including mature gardens, a hard-surfaced area for games, large sensory play areas and several communal spaces.

- Outdoor spaces are well maintained and secure. The proprietor body has installed a substantial gate which prevents anyone from entering or leaving the premises without permission.
- The standards in part 5 are likely to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(c)

- The proprietor body has considerable expertise and experience of working with pupils with SEND and managing specialist settings, including for pupils with autism. They articulate a clear purpose and vision to ensure that the right provision for the school's vulnerable pupils is in place. This underpins their rationale for their request for a material change.
- The headteacher, senior staff and the head of quality (education) provide robust oversight of the school on behalf of the proprietor body. They know the independent school standards well and review their implementation regularly.
- Leaders demonstrate passion and commitment to meeting the needs of pupils with SEND. They maintain strong communication with the local authorities that commission places at the school.
- The standards in part 8 are likely to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The school has created an appropriate accessibility plan for the premises. The school meets the requirements 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	131531
DfE registration number	850/6085
Inspection number	10296128

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 Special School
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Aspris Children's Services Ltd
Chair	John Anderson
Headteacher	Daniel Goldstraw
Annual fees (day pupils)	£88,561 to £137,881
Telephone number	01189 817 720
Website	www.aspriscs.co.uk/find-a-location/tadley-court-school-hampshire
Email address	tadleycourtreception@aspriscs.co.uk
Dates of previous standard inspection	22 to 24 November 2022

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	4 to 19	4 to 19	4 to 19
Number of pupils on the school roll	65	89	89

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	65	89
Number of part-time pupils	0	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	65	89
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	65	89
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	65	89

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	17	22
Number of part-time teaching staff	0	0
Number of staff in the welfare provision	32	42

Information about this school

- Tadley Court is an independent special school for pupils with autism and severe learning difficulties. Many have associated speech, language and communication difficulties. All pupils have an education, health and care plan and are referred to the school by a number of local authorities.
- Governance of the school is provided by officers employed by the proprietor body who report to the board of directors.

- The school's last standard inspection took place in November 2022, when its overall effectiveness was judged to be good.
- At the time of this material change inspection, the headteacher had been in post for three weeks.
- The school does not currently use any alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education because the proprietor body had applied to make changes to the school's registration. The proprietor body wishes to increase the admission numbers. This was the first material change inspection for this application.
- The school operates from a single site with extensive grounds. Some of the pupils live in children's homes that are owned and run by Aspris Care Services.
- Since the last standard inspection, the building has undergone renovation work, including the refurbishment of classrooms for the material change.
- The inspector reviewed a range of documents prior to the inspection, including information provided on the school's website.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, the chief operating officer (who is also the chair of the proprietor body), the head of quality (education) and senior leaders. She toured the school premises, including the refurbished classrooms, with the headteacher.
- The inspector checked policies, records and documentation relating to the specific independent school standards in scope for this inspection, including the single central record and the safeguarding policy.

Inspection team

Shazia Akram, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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