

The Holmewood School

88 Woodside Park Road, London N12 8SH

Inspection date

15 September 2023

Overall outcome

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

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7–7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16–16(b)

- The school's culture of safeguarding continues to be strong. Pupils feel safe and well looked after. Leaders have a clear understanding of the latest statutory guidance, including 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2023). The school's safeguarding policy reflects this guidance and is available online. Leaders follow up any concerns quickly and appropriately. Arrangements for the recruitment, training and induction of staff are suitable.
- The school's policies for health and safety and risk assessment have been appropriately adapted to consider the additional premises. The written risk assessments for the additional building consider clearly and in detail how to minimise the possible risks.
- The recent external fire risk assessment of the additional premises identified a very few actions that have been, or are being, completed. Fire safety infrastructure and equipment are either new or have been recently serviced. Leaders are carrying out and recording the required fire safety checks.
- Staffing and supervision levels are high. As pupil numbers grow gradually, leaders have credible plans to deploy existing staff and to recruit more to ensure that all pupils receive the same high-quality teaching, therapy and support as current pupils do.
- The independent school standards (the standards) checked in Part 3 are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

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

All paragraphs

- The single central record contains an accurate record of all the required vetting checks on the adults responsible for, and working at, the school.

- The standards in Part 4 are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

All paragraphs

- The additional premises at 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY have been refurbished to a high specification. From September 2023, pupils began attending this site between one and two days a week to access the new specialist classrooms for art, cooking and computing. Lighting, acoustics, toilets, and washing and medical room facilities are all suitable. Labelled drinking water supplies are available throughout the premises. The hot water supply is safely regulated. There is ample outdoor space for recreation. Physical education is taught off site at local leisure facilities, where pupils also have access to changing and shower facilities.
- Since September 2023, pupils are timetabled to attend lessons across the school's three premises. Leaders intend to increase the school roll gradually to 100 pupils. The increased space available at the additional premises means that this is likely to be suitable.
- The standards in Part 5 are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraphs 34(1)–(c)

- The proprietors have invested heavily in refurbishing the additional premises. Leaders have planned thoroughly for this material change. They have thought carefully about how to timetable and meet the complex needs of up to 100 pupils.
- Leaders demonstrate a continued secure understanding of the standards.
- The standards in Part 8 are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

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	136263
DfE registration number	302/6201
Inspection number	10304498

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 special school
Proprietor	Cavendish Education Ltd
Chair	Aatif Hassan
Headteacher	Bridget Young
Annual fees (day pupils)	£78,990
Telephone number	020 8920 0660
Website	www.thsl.org.uk
Email address	enquiries@thsl.org.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	17 to 19 May 2022

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	7 to 19	No change	Not applicable
Number of pupils on the school roll	80	Up to 100	Up to 100

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	No change

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	54	Up to 100
Number of part-time pupils	0	No change
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	All pupils	No change
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	All pupils	No change
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	All pupils	No change

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	17	21
Number of part-time teaching staff	7	No change
Number of staff in the welfare provision	41	49

Information about this school

- The Holmewood School is an independent special day school in the London Borough of Barnet.
- Its lower school premises and administrative centre are located at 88 Woodside Park Road, London N12 8SH. Its upper school premises, including the sixth form, are at 8a Muswell Hill, London N10 3TD. From September 2023, the school will also use its third premises for specialist teaching at 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY.
- All pupils have an education, health and care plan for autism. They are placed in the school and funded by a range of local authorities.
- The school is part of, and governed by, Cavendish Education Ltd.

- The school makes use of several external providers of further education for some students in the sixth form, who attend these providers on a part-time basis with support.

Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education commissioned this inspection to consider the school's application to increase the number of pupils it admits.
- This was the first inspection to consider the school's material change application to increase the maximum number of pupils from 80 to 100 and to include additional premises.
- The inspection was announced with two days' notice.
- The inspector considered whether the independent school standards are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved.
- The inspector met with a range of senior leaders, including the headteacher and the proprietors' compliance director. He toured the new premises, which the school had already started to use from September 2023, and met with a group of pupils. He considered a range of evidence, including documents related to health and safety, risk assessment and fire safety. The inspection also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including checks on the single central record.

Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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