

Huckleberry Therapeutic School

Manor Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 8NE

Inspection date

5 October 2023

Overall outcome

The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7–7(b), 32(1) and 32(1)(c)

- At the previous monitoring inspection, it was found that previously unmet standards relating to safeguarding were now met. Pupils' safety and well-being were described as being leaders' number one priority. Evidence from this monitoring inspection confirms that this remains the case.
- Leaders and staff are well trained. They are knowledgeable about their safeguarding responsibilities and know precisely how and when to raise a concern. The school's systems for recording and responding to safeguarding concerns are effective. Leaders work efficiently with a range of external agencies to make sure that, where required, pupils and their families receive timely help and support.
- Staff and pupils are supported by a full set of policies, including a suitable health and safety policy and a risk assessment policy. The safeguarding policy complies with present guidelines and is also published on the provider's website in accordance with part 6 of the independent school standards (the standards).
- Leaders have ensured that relevant parts of this standard and the associated requirements in part 6 continue to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraphs 34(1)–34(1)(b)

- At the time of the previous monitoring inspection, all of the standards except those in part 8 were judged to be met. It was found that leaders had addressed previous weaknesses and the unmet standards with rigour and determination. They demonstrated capacity to ensure that the school continues to strengthen in all areas. However, the inspection found that at the time, many improvements were new, and some were

particularly recent. As a result, it was too soon to judge that the requirements of the standards were 'consistently' met.

- The steps outlined in the school's revised post-inspection improvement plan have been implemented in full. The school now has a clear timeline for actions and costings for each area. Leaders have ensured that the systems to monitor the quality of education are embedded fully. This enables them to have an accurate view of the impact of their work.
- The proprietor knows precisely what needs to improve next in the quality of education. They have made provision for ongoing external, independent advice to ensure that the qualitative aspects identified as weaknesses at the previous standard inspection improve.
- The education committee is now well established. Together with the proprietor, the committee provides leaders with appropriate dialogue and challenge. This includes understanding the need to evaluate the school's performance against the standards constantly.
- The previously unmet standards in this part are now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

The school now meets the following independent school standards

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- 34(1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school—
 - 34(1)(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
 - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

School details

Unique reference number	148625
DfE registration number	931/6025
Inspection number	10302333

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Primary school
School status	Independent day school
Age range of pupils	5 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	5
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Calcot Services for Children Ltd
Chair	Harvinder Singh and Sukhbir Singh (Co-chairs)
Headteacher	Louisa Skinner
Annual fees (day pupils)	£56,306 to £79,367
Telephone number	01235 639511
Website	www.huckleberrytherapeuticschool.co.uk
Email address	Huckleberry@cfsc.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	7 to 9 June 2022

Information about this school

- Huckleberry Therapeutic School is an independent school for pupils aged five to 11 years. Pupils are referred to the school by their local authority, which funds their place. All pupils have social, emotional and mental health needs. Some have a medical diagnosis, for example of autism. All pupils have an education, health and care plan.
- The proprietor is Calcot Services for Children Ltd. Huckleberry Therapeutic School is one of three schools belonging to the proprietor.
- The school was registered by the Department for Education (DfE) in June 2021 and accepted pupils from September 2021.

- The school is registered for 35 pupils. The school's most recent standard inspection was in June 2022.
- The school does not currently use any alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous monitoring inspection.
- Following the first monitoring inspection in January 2023, the DfE required the school to prepare a statutory action plan. This was evaluated by Ofsted and was not accepted by the DfE in June 2023. The inspector considered the revised action plan as part of this inspection.
- This was the second progress monitoring inspection since the standard inspection in June 2022. This inspection was carried out without notice.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher and the director of education. She spoke online with the proprietors. The inspector also met with the family liaison officer and two specialist staff and spoke on the telephone with the curriculum lead.
- The single central record and records of safeguarding concerns and actions were reviewed. A meeting was held with leaders in their capacity as designated safeguarding lead and deputy designated safeguarding lead.
- The inspector scrutinised a wide range of documentation before and during the inspection. In particular, policies and documents relating to the curriculum and safeguarding were considered. The inspector also considered the school's strategic development plan, leaders' self-evaluation and notes of visit from external consultants.
- The inspector visited all classes and looked at pupils' workbooks. She spoke to pupils during the tour of the school and during breaktime.

Inspection team

Shazia Akram, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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