

Education and residential inspection summary for Sidestrand Hall School

Sidestrand Hall School, Cromer Road, Sidestrand, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 0NH

Inspection dates: 7 - 9 November 2023

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the residential provision is: outstanding

What is it like to attend this school?

- Sidestrand Hall School is a welcoming, inclusive community. Pupils quickly settle into school life. This is because adults take the time to know pupils' complex individual special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The well-planned curriculum builds pupils' knowledge, confidence and independence. Pupils and students in the sixth form are well prepared for life beyond the school gates.
- Positive relationships between staff and pupils feature throughout the school. Staff know pupils' unique backgrounds. As a result, staff support pupils well with their behaviour and emotions. Pupils have someone to talk to if they find aspects of school life hard. Pupils make friends and play well together. Staff deal with the sometimes tricky behaviour swiftly and effectively. This means that, overall, pupils behave well and can focus on school life.
- Visits, trips and clubs enhance pupils' positive school experience. Pupils enjoy cooking, gardening and outdoor learning within the extensive grounds. Pupils learn about relevant topics such as budgeting, safe travel and healthy living. Trips into the community help pupils put their learning into action. Pupils get high-quality careers advice and guidance. This supports pupils' transition into appropriate destinations when they leave the school.

The inspectors made one recommendation to help the school improve, which covered improving assessment in the curriculum.

What is it like to stay at this school?

- Children receive highly individualised and excellent support. The staff and managers consistently exceed the standards of good care. Children make substantial and sustained progress from their individual starting points, and they flourish. Children's quality of life and future opportunities are enhanced because of their time spent at the residential provision.
- Children are extremely enthusiastic and animated when they talk about their stays in residence. Noticeboards display photos of the children taking part in a range of exciting adventures. Children's activities are thoughtfully planned, often introducing children to new opportunities which enhance their learning and development. Children's life skills and social development improve because of this exposure to new experiences.
- Children's educational progress and engagement are impressive. Staff from the residential provision work closely with school staff to help children make educational progress. A recognised award and accreditation scheme has been implemented in the residential provision. This provides curriculum programmes and qualifications to help the children develop knowledge and skills for learning, work and life. Learning a variety of new skills has led to children making significant progress with their levels of independence and preparation for adult life.
- Children have exceptionally positive experiences. They enjoy an extensive number of community trips, such as bowling, golf, swimming, use of public transport and library visits. Creative planning introduces the children to a wide range of local activities which help to broaden their experience of the world around them. Children take part in beach cleans and visit a local nursing home, which helps them to have a meaningful and active role in their local community.
- The experienced, dedicated and skilled staff forge strong relationships with children. Interactions between the children and staff are natural and warm, filled with high regard and genuine compassion. Humour and nurture are balanced with care and guidance. The managers consistently model this approach. Consequently, children develop the sense of security and stability that they need to make progress and thrive.
- Children experience well-organised inductions to the residential provision. Introductions are planned between the child, their families and residential staff at a pace that is right for the child. As a result, these introductions are consistently successful.
- Feedback from parents is unreservedly positive. Parents say that their children are more independent and have flourished in their personal and emotional

development. One parent said, 'My child loves his residential experience. It is a lifeline for our whole family.'

The school **meets all the national minimum standards**.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/25/121254>
- View the full inspection report for the residential provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC042606>



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