

Education and residential inspection summary for Unsted Park School

Munstead Heath Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1UW

Inspection dates: 7 to 9 November 2023

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: requires improvement

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

What is it like to attend this school?

Unsted Park School provides pupils with a caring environment where they feel safe and secure. Staff here understand that many pupils join the school following disruption to their education. They work hard to help pupils readjust to a school setting. Teachers and teaching assistants take time to get to know each pupil well and form strong relationships with them. This helps to build the sense that pupils and staff all belong to one community.

Although pupils generally achieve well here, their learning across subjects and key stages is inconsistent. Sometimes the teaching that pupils receive is not adapted to meet their needs or build on what they already know. The curriculum for key stage 2 is underdeveloped, which means that pupils in the primary phase are not learning as well as those in secondary.

Parents value the high levels of care and support that the school provides. Many parents describe how their children have flourished since starting at the school. One told us, 'We have finally found a setting where our child can learn to be himself and where his mental health is viewed as the most important aspect.'

The inspectors made **three** recommendations to help the school improve, covering the effectiveness of assessment, the curriculum for pupils in key stage 2, and leaders' actions to improve the quality of education over time.

The school **meets all of the independent school standards**.

What is it like to stay at this school?

Young people are cared for by a dedicated, exceptionally skilled team of staff who, through strong relationships, support them to make progress. Young people trust staff and believe in themselves, taking pride in what they have achieved.

Parents speak positively about the impact that the residential provision has on their children and are clear that staff have a good understanding of their children's needs. One parent described feeling anxious about their child being away from home. However, due to how well staff communicate with them, they were reassured. Another parent described it as, 'Purely perfect for both my child and us as a family.'

Young people make significant progress in the residential provision. Staff have a good understanding of young people's individual starting points, and progress is assessed against this. Two young people have had quite incredible journeys and are now preparing for further education. Both young people previously had significant gaps in their education and were unable to engage. They are now being supported to plan for university and apply for college placements.

There is an ongoing focus on supporting young people to be prepared for adulthood. This area of practice has significantly developed since the last inspection. Young people are encouraged to budget, plan, shop and cook three meals a week. Some are also supported to safely administer their own medication. The support that is offered to young people is individualised and reflects their needs.

Young people's views are integral to the development of the residential provision. Weekly meetings and one-to-one sessions consistently provide young people with a voice regarding matters that are important to them. Young people benefit from the input of an independent advocate, who visits the home termly and spends time with all the young people. Contact details for the advocate are made available to young people so that they can contact them in between visits if required.

A wide range of activities are available to the young people. These range from attending cadets, going to the cinema, on theatre trips and attending clubs, painting, sports and games in the grounds. While activities are planned in advance with young people, staff creatively adapt these plans if required. For some young people, the

ability to participate in activities in the community, is a significant success and something they enjoy.

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

The inspectors **did not make any recommendations** to help the school improve.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/135419>
- View the full inspection report for the residential provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC363144>



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