

# Cedar House School

Low Bentham, Via Lancaster, North Yorkshire LA2 7DD

**Inspection date**

23 November 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, 7a, 7b, 8, 8a and 8b*

- Safeguarding pupils is a key priority. Staff receive regular training, including weekly bulletins from the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). New staff receive safeguarding training and induction before they work with pupils.
- Should a pupil share a concern with staff, adults are clear about the importance of reporting this as soon as possible. Staff are aware that their teaching duties will be covered while they report the concern.
- Staff have received training on how to write up their concerns; this results in entries on the school's online safeguarding system being detailed and accurate.
- The DSL is well trained and carries out her role diligently. This work is well regarded by external agencies.
- The school's safeguarding policy is readily available to pupils, parents and carers through the school website or as a paper copy from the school office.
- The DSL works closely with the safeguarding lead for residential pupils who attend the school. This ensures that the same, high level of care is maintained in both the school and residential facility.
- These standards are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

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

*Paragraphs 18(2), 18(2)(a), 18(2)(b), 18(2)(c), 18(2)(c)(i), 18(2)(c)(ii), 18(2)(c)(iii), 18(2)(c)(iv), 18(2)(d), 18(2)(e), 18(3), 19(2), 19(2)(a), 19(2)(a)(i), 19(2)(a)(i)(aa), 19(2)(a)(i)(bb), 19(2)(a)(i)(cc), 19(2)(a)(i)(dd), 19(2)(a)(ii), 19(2)(b), 19(2)(c), 19(2)(d), 19(2)(d)(i), 19(2)(d)(ii), 19(3), 20(6), 20(6)(a), 20(6)(a)(i), 20(6)(a)(ii), 20(6)(b), 20(6)(b)(i), 20(6)(b)(ii), 20(6)(b)(iii), 20(6)(c), 21(1), 21(2), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(i), 21(3)(a)(ii), 21(3)(a)(iii), 21(3)(a)(iv), 21(3)(a)(v), 21(3)(a)(vi),*

*21(3)(a)(vii), 21(3)(a)(viii), 21(3)(b), 21(5), 21(5)(a), 21(5)(a)(i), 21(5)(a)(ii), 21(5)(b), 21(5)(c) and 21(6)*

- The school has a single central register which details the full range of pre-employment checks to be carried out on all staff and the proprietorial body. These include checks on staff who have worked abroad and checks on whether teachers and support staff have been prohibited from teaching.
- Leaders and staff who are involved in the recruitment of new staff have completed safer recruitment training. Discussion with school leaders shows that this guidance is diligently put into practice when new staff are appointed.
- These standards are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

## Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b), 23(1)(c), 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(2), 25, 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 28(2), 28(2)(a), 28(2)(b), 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)*

- The school has recently redeveloped parts of its estate. The clinical staff have a new suite of rooms in the centre of the school buildings. This has enabled leaders to develop a new classroom in readiness for their anticipated increase in pupil numbers.
- The school has several well-appointed blocks of rooms which are used for pupils of different ages. Primary classrooms are in a different building to secondary classrooms. Each part of the school has sufficient toilets and handwashing facilities to meet pupils' needs.
- The water temperature was checked in handwashing areas and in sinks in classrooms. While the water was the correct temperature in the majority of locations, the water temperature in the school's hair salon was too hot. The maintenance team checked the boiler and valves immediately and found that one of the multi-function water valves was faulty. The part was ordered and the maintenance log showed a repair would be carried out the next day.
- Drinking water is available from the kitchen and through water fountains located around the school. Signs near taps indicate which are to be used for drinking water.
- The school has an on-site nurse who is based in the medical room. The nurse checks the contents of all first aid boxes across the school. Those checked as part of the inspection contained a wide range of in-date supplies. The school has an on-site defibrillator. The school's on-site nurse is trained to use this equipment.
- The school has sufficient outside space to allow all pupils to play outside. Physical education is delivered in a large, purpose-built sports hall. There are also several outdoor multi-purpose sports facilities.
- These standards are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

### *Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(b) and 34(1)(c)*

- Leaders and the proprietor have ensured that all the standards checked in this inspection have been met. A very recent inspection of residential care graded the leadership team as outstanding.
- Pupils spoken to said they felt happy, safe and secure in school. The headteacher and deputy headteacher know their pupils well. This could clearly be seen by the positive way pupils spoke to the leadership team as they walked around school.
- A key leadership priority is to actively promote pupils' welfare and social skills. An example of how this priority is promoted can be seen when staff and pupils eat lunch together. Staff model good behaviour and manners. Pupils emulate them as they chat happily and queue politely, taking turns to be served.
- Leaders know their school well. A well-thought-out plan is in place to support the school's application to increase pupil numbers from 88 to 96. The school's aim is to increase the number of places for primary pupils as there is currently a high demand for places for younger pupils and the school has a strong record of success with their current group of primary pupils.

### Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The school has an accessibility plan in place which shows how the school is developing fair access for all pupils.

## **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	112456
DfE registration number	815/6041
Inspection number	10318800

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 school
School status	Independent residential special school
Proprietor	Witherslack Group Ltd
Chair	Tracey Fletcher Ray
Headteacher	Stephen Salt
Annual fees (day pupils)	£66,540 to £92,000
Telephone number	01524 261149
Website	<a href="https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/our/locations/our-schools/cedar-house-school/">https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/our/locations/our-schools/cedar-house-school/</a>
Email address	cedar-house@witherslackgroup.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	28 to 30 June 2022

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	7 to 18	7 to 18	7 to 18
Number of pupils on the school roll	88	96	96

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	88	96
Number of part-time pupils	88	96
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	88	96
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	88	96
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	88	96

## Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	86	90
Number of part-time teaching staff	0	0
Number of staff in the welfare provision	24	24

## Information about this school

- Cedar House School is a residential special school for pupils aged seven to 18 years with social, emotional and mental health needs. Some pupils who attend the school have additional needs including autism, attention and hyperactive disorders, and moderate learning difficulties.
- Cedar House is part of the Witherslack Group, which owns a large group of schools across the United Kingdom.
- The school does not have a religious denomination.

- The school currently uses one registered provider of alternative provision and one unregistered provider.
- The school's previous inspection took place in June 2022.

## **Information about this inspection**

### **Inspection team**

Marian Thomas, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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