

Phoenix U16 Independent School

Unit E, Metro Business Park, Clough Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST1 4AF

Inspection dates

21 February 2024

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

Paragraph 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- At the time of the inspection in June 2023, the school's processes for carrying out risk assessments were not detailed enough. For example, off-site risk assessments were not taking account of all the actual risks associated with the pupils or the activity. As a result, the school was not taking the appropriate action to manage and reduce levels of risk for pupils.
- Since the previous inspection, leaders have worked with a range of professionals to ensure that systems for assessing risks are robust. Leaders have a detailed risk assessment policy in place.
- The school's risk assessments are appropriate and identify the risk associated with individual activities and visits. Leaders have ensured that all staff are well trained in identifying risks.
- These standards are now met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a) and 34(1)(b)

- At the time of the inspection, the proprietor had not ensured that all the standards were being met consistently and continually. There were weaknesses in the risk assessment processes and the school was not taking appropriate action to manage and reduce levels of risk for pupils.
- It is clear that since the previous inspection, leaders acted quickly to rectify the issues raised. The proprietor has maintained oversight of the improvements and has brought in additional expertise to ensure that the improvements are being sustained.
- These standards 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 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that–
 - 16(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and
 - 16(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

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 | 137892 |
| DfE registration number | 861/6007 |
| Inspection number | 10319972 |

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 | Other independent school |
| School status | Independent school |
| Age range of pupils | 14 to 16 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 24 |
| Proprietor | Shelley Jamieson |
| Headteacher | Shelley Jamieson |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £18,050 to £25,650 |
| Telephone number | 01782 922306 |
| Website | www.phoenixlearning.co.uk |
| Email address | finance@phoenixlearning.co.uk |
| Dates of previous standard inspection | 27 to 29 June 2023 |

Information about this school

- Phoenix U16 Independent School provides full-time education for pupils between the ages of 14 and 16.
- Pupils are referred to the school by local secondary schools and local authorities.
- Pupils attending Phoenix U16 typically have a range of social, emotional and mental health difficulties, and have either been excluded or were at risk of exclusion from their previous setting.
- The school does not 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 inspection.
- This progress monitoring inspection was carried out without notice and lasted one day.
- This was the school's first monitoring inspection since its last standard inspection in June 2023, at which it was judged requires improvement.
- The school was required to prepare an action plan as a result of non-compliance with the independent school standards following the previous standard inspection. The proposed action plan was judged to be acceptable by the Department for Education (DfE) in November 2023.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, who is also the proprietor, to discuss the progress since the last inspection.
- The inspector spoke with a range of staff and pupils.
- The inspector scrutinised a range of documents and records relating to risk assessments.
- The inspection also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including the single central register of pre-employment checks and whether the school's safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers. These requirements of the independent school standards are met.

Inspection team

Eve Morris, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Parent View

You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/ofsted.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2024