

Hestia School

Bigby Street, Brigg, North Lincolnshire DN20 8EF

Inspection date

4 October 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 7, 7(a) and 7(b)

- The safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers on the school website. It clearly states the designated staff responsible for safeguarding. The policy states what to do if staff have a concern about the well-being or safety of a child attending the school.
- The single central record demonstrates the checks carried out on staff working with children. These checks meet statutory requirements.
- All staff receive mandatory safeguarding training. This includes training covering the school's health and safety policies and procedures.
- Staff ensure that pupils rehearse safety procedures with regular fire drills. Staff review the school's emergency protocols to strengthen their confidence to manage situations. They use thorough risk assessments for various school activities to help them to support pupils.
- The independent school standards (the standards) in this part that were met at the previous inspection continue to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 22 and 25

- The school has made improvements to the available space for teaching and learning. There is a new sixth-form area at the rear of the school site. It is accessible via an existing pedestrian pathway and access road. The school ensures this remains gated and locked. Some parts of the access road show cracking and subsidence caused by heavy vehicles accessing building works to the new sixth-form area. The proprietor has plans in place to repair the road.
- School buildings are well maintained. Learning areas are bright and have adequate room for small teaching groups. There are additional spaces for adults and pupils to work one-to-one. Internal and external lighting is appropriate.

- The school has an appropriate number of toilets in each area of the school. These are clearly identifiable as single-gender toilets or mixed-use facilities with floor-to-ceiling toilet doors. The school has installed an additional toilet with shower and changing area since the previous inspection.
- The school standards in this part that were unmet at the previous inspection 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 previous inspection, and subsequent progress monitoring inspection, a small number of standards were unmet. These standards related to the maintenance of the building and the effective implementation of the school's health and safety policy.
- The school has taken swift action to address these unmet standards. It submitted two clear action plans to the Department for Education (DfE), the registration authority for independent schools. The action plans identified how the school would work with external partners to review health and safety policies and implement regular checks on fire safety equipment and implement weekly full-site inspections. The school also stated its intention to ensure that staff receive effective training to understand their health and safety responsibilities.
- The school has taken effective action to implement the action plans. Records reviewed during this progress monitoring inspection highlight that the school makes regular checks on fire extinguishers and resources in the school buildings. Staff receive ongoing health and safety training. They receive information about their health and safety responsibilities. External health and safety partners review provision in the school and make recommendations for further improvements.
- The proprietor has appointed a senior leader to manage health and safety in the school. They monitor reported concerns and ensure that the school carries out maintenance work where needed. The method for reporting maintenance or safety issues is effective. All members of staff use an electronic reporting system to alert on-site maintenance personnel to building concerns or maintenance work. Leaders have ensured that all staff fully understand the new reporting system. They have clarified to staff, through training, that it is the staff member's responsibility to report any issues or concerns swiftly.
- The school standards in this part that were unmet at the previous inspection 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 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 22 The standards about the premises of and accommodation at the school are those contained in this Part.
- 25 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

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	135247
DfE registration number	813/6005
Inspection number	10354537

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 special school
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	12 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	38
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Rodney Wardlaw
Headteacher	Michelle Huckle
Annual fees (day pupils)	£35,000 to £47,000
Telephone number	01652 654251
Website	www.demeterhouseschool.com
Email address	admin@demeterhouseschool.com
Dates of previous standard inspection	27 to 29 June 2023

Information about this school

- Hestia School is an independent special school. The school is registered to provide full-time education for up to 60 pupils. Currently, there are 38 pupils on roll.
- All pupils who attend this school have an education, health and care plan. Many pupils have social, emotional or mental health needs. Some have sensory needs and/or a diagnosis of autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
- Pupils are placed at the school by several different local authorities.
- A linked school is known as Hera House and operates from the nearby Appleby site. It caters for pupils aged 5 to 11 years.

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.
- The school's previous inspection, at which the school was judged not to comply with the independent school standards, was a standard inspection and took place from 27 to 29 June 2023.
- This was the school's second progress monitoring inspection since the standard inspection in June 2023. The first progress monitoring inspection took place on 6 February 2024.
- The DfE required the school to prepare an action plan. This was a statutory requirement.
- Ofsted evaluated and accepted the school's first action plan on 13 November 2023. It also evaluated and accepted the school's second action plan on 9 May 2024.
- The progress monitoring inspection was conducted without notice.
- To check compliance with the independent school standards, the inspectors met with the proprietor, the headteacher and other staff. The inspectors toured the school site and scrutinised school policies and records.
- The inspection also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including the single central record of pre-employment checks and whether the school's safeguarding policy is available to parents. These requirements of the independent school standards continue to be met.

Inspection team

David Mills, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Richard Jones

His Majesty's Inspector

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