

# Tremona Road Hospital And Home

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	134529
<b>Local Authority</b>	Southampton
<b>Inspection number</b>	328921
<b>Inspection dates</b>	30 April –1 May 2009
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Stuart Charlton

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

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<b>Type of school</b>	Pupil referral unit
<b>School category</b>	Pupil referral unit
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	5–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School (total)	46
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The local authority
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Peter Smith
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	25 January 2006
<b>School address</b>	Education Service Southampton General Hospital 119 Tremona Road Southampton SO16 6HU
<b>Telephone number</b>	02380 796 667
<b>Fax number</b>	02380 798 483

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector.

## Description of the school

Tremona Road Hospital and Home Service is a medical pupil referral unit (PRU) for those who have acute medical needs and who are hospitalised or having to receive education at home. Pupils come from a wide geographic area covering Southampton, neighbouring counties, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. They are taught in three distinct settings. Bursledon House provides for pupils requiring rehabilitation and psychiatric investigation, all of whom are referred through clinical consultants. These pupils are in two classes, one covering Key Stages 1 and 2 and the other Key Stages 3 and 4. The G Level group provides for pupils on the paediatric oncology ward, the haemodialysis unit and the acute paediatric wards. Teaching for these pupils is on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. They are primarily acute admissions through Southampton General Hospital. The outreach provision covers pupils of all age ranges requiring home tuition while attending the hospital on an outpatient basis. All pupils are dual registered and are reintegrated into their mainstream schools as soon as possible. Pupils are mainly from White British backgrounds.

## Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

Tremona Road Hospital and Home Service provides excellent education for its pupils. This is based on outstanding teaching and learning, but more importantly on the excellent support and guidance from staff, resulting in pupils' personal development being exemplary. The expertise of staff, and the ways in which they work to respect the dignity of pupils with extreme medical needs, enables the centre to very successfully fulfil its vision of 'developing the skills of all pupils to enable them to reintegrate successfully into mainstream school provision'.

Tremona Road is held in very high esteem by pupils and their parents. As one parent commented, 'Tremona Road has played a vital role in my son's treatment by enabling him to keep up with his school work. I cannot speak highly enough of the school'.

All pupils who join Tremona Road have suffered considerable disruption to their education and, because of their severe medical needs, have low self-esteem and confidence. Pupils generally only remain at Tremona Road for very short periods of time, often as short as four to six weeks. Consequently, its primary focus is helping pupils to develop the skills and confidence they need to manage their medical conditions so that they can reintegrate successfully into their mainstream school. The vast majority achieve this, which clearly demonstrates that pupils' progress and their achievements are of the highest order.

There are very effective systems to determine pupils' attainment on entry. This involves using information from their previous schools and a wide range of diagnostic tests. Clear care plans are then set up for each pupil covering their social, medical and academic development. These plans are reviewed on a weekly basis and because of the comprehensive and detailed assessment completed by all staff, they enable pupils' progress to be monitored accurately. Across the provision there are excellent systems to monitor teaching and its impact on pupils' learning. This information is used extremely well in helping and supporting teachers to develop their practice. Teachers plan their lessons very conscientiously, and focus clearly on the needs of each individual and how these will be met. They match their teaching methods and resources very carefully to the immediate needs of the pupils and respond extremely well to changes which are demanded at very short notice in response to the medical treatments the pupils undergo. The excellent relationships between staff and pupils result in very effective learning.

All staff have real insight into how to work with pupils with acute medical conditions in order to overcome their anxieties and develop their self-esteem and confidence. Consequently, they provide excellent care for all pupils. This is a key strength and pervades all the work of Tremona Road. Attendance is excellent, which for many pupils is a radical improvement over their attendance at their previous schools. There are excellent systems in place to monitor behaviour and enable pupils to address the challenges imposed by their medical conditions. Consequently, behaviour is exemplary and all pupils make significant changes for the better in their attitudes to learning. Most pupils greatly enjoy their education and are proud of the facilities and what Tremona Road enables them to achieve. Through their medical conditions, they have very good awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. All pupils understand the importance of safety and are highly appreciative of the secure environment which is provided. The way in which Tremona Road promotes the value of education across the hospital community is exemplary. Staff work very effectively in a wider regional and national context to champion and develop the role of education in the treatment of young people with extreme medical needs. As a result, very effective links and working relationships have been established with hospitals in Australia and New Zealand. Consequently, the way in which Tremona Road promotes community cohesion

is excellent. Older pupils mentor and support their younger peers extremely well. The strong focus on developing pupils' literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills, along with the excellent development of their personal skills, prepares them extremely well for their future. The curriculum is very well matched to the needs of pupils enabling them to successfully continue work started in their previous schools.

The headteacher has a very clear vision of how the provision should continue to develop. He provides the energy, commitment and determination to put this into practice and is very ably supported by the senior management team. A cornerstone of the provision is the teamwork which has been established across all educational and medical staff. Senior consultants fully recognise the contribution made by the educational provision to the recovery of pupils with serious medical conditions. As one said, 'The education staff are an indispensable part of my team'. There are very good systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the provision and all staff have a clear view of its strengths and weaknesses. Consequently, a comprehensive development plan has been drawn up, which gives precise guidance on how the provision will improve further. The members of the management steering committee are very supportive of the provision and are highly effective in promoting the needs of the pupils. However, because they do not have budgetary control, decisions on staffing and developing the provision have to go through the local authority procedures. This takes time and consequently hinders the management support group's effectiveness in acting as a critical friend to Tremona Road.

### **What the school should do to improve further**

- Ensure that the management steering committee acts more effectively as a critical friend to Tremona Road.

## **Achievement and standards**

### **Grade: 1**

The primary focus of Tremona Road is to ensure that all pupils gain the self-esteem and confidence they need to successfully reintegrate into their mainstream school. As the majority are only in the provision for a short period of time, progress towards realising this aim has to be rapid. The fact that very nearly all pupils make a success of their reintegration shows that pupils' progress and achievement are outstanding. The excellent systems to identify pupils' attainment on entry show that it is very wide-ranging and cohort-dependent and that, overall, it is below what would be expected for their age. However, these systems ensure that pupils invariably meet, and nearly all exceed, their challenging targets.

## **Personal development and well-being**

### **Grade: 1**

All staff respect each pupil's dignity and, consequently, ensure that the personal development of all is outstanding. Pupils thoroughly enjoy their learning either in the classrooms, on the wards, or at home. Behaviour is exemplary, in part due to the excellent role models that staff provide. Pupils are very aware of the need for a healthy lifestyle and all pupils who can do so take full advantage of the physical education sessions that are provided in addition to the physiotherapy which is a way of life for most pupils. These good habits are endorsed fully in lessons. The way in which pupils across a wide age range help and support each other in both academic learning and personal development is a unique feature of the provision. Pupils highly value the opportunities to express their views, particularly through the school council. In all their activities pupils pay particular attention to acting safely. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social

and cultural awareness is excellent. Once they return to their mainstream school, the vast majority of pupils attend the hospital on an outpatient basis for further treatment. On these visits they can also drop in to the education provision. The fact that so many do, often bringing their present school work with them, shows how much they value how Tremona Road helps them once they are back in their mainstream schools or working at home.

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Grade: 1**

Through a very focused programme of training, staff gain the skills and confidence they need to address the extremely wide range and diversity of pupils' needs. A range of therapists work very closely with staff to ensure that all pupils gain the communication, social and interaction skills that are critical to their development. Planning is thorough reflecting the excellent care plans which have been drawn up linking educational and medical needs. Teachers give comprehensive guidance to their teaching assistants so that lessons proceed smoothly. The highly effective way in which teaching assistants work with the pupils plays a key role in ensuring learning is very focused but fun. This seamless pattern of support across the educational and medical staff ensures that pupils quickly develop the self-esteem and confidence they need to succeed. Regular and rigorous assessment by staff, linked to very effective peer and self-assessment ensures that all pupils are clear about what they need to do to improve their work.

### **Curriculum and other activities**

#### **Grade: 1**

The curriculum is very well tailored to the needs of pupils and is very carefully linked to the subjects and areas of learning that pupils study in their mainstream schools. The afternoon topic-based sessions provide excellent opportunities for pupils to work cooperatively in group situations. This ensures that any loss of learning due to hospitalisation is minimised. The focus on developing pupils' literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills, and the very successful development of their personal skills ensures that all are very well prepared for life after Tremona Road.

### **Care, guidance and support**

#### **Grade: 1**

Care, guidance and support are outstanding and have a significant impact on pupils' excellent personal and academic development. Central to Tremona Road's success are the commitment and time that all staff devote to the personal mentoring of pupils. Tremona Road provides a safe and secure environment that enables pupils to successfully face the challenges their medical conditions impose on their lives outside school. It is a very harmonious community with no bullying and there have been no exclusions. Safeguarding procedures fully meet requirements. A particular feature of this area of the work of Tremona Road is how quickly all newcomers settle into routines which are crucial to their future success. The excellent support that all staff give to pupils ensures that they always meet, and very often exceed, the targets set in their care plans. A particularly strong feature of the provision is the way in which all staff work so sympathetically with parents, who are inevitably in a very fragile state due to their child's condition.

## **Leadership and management**

### **Grade: 1**

The leadership and vision of the headteacher are outstanding and are central to the success of Tremona Road. The stability in staffing, linked to the energy and enthusiasm generated by the headteacher and the senior management team, ensures that the school has improved rapidly since the last inspection. Key to this is the teamwork which has been developed across education and medical staff resulting in the very high quality and profile of education which the hospital's senior consultants recognise as being crucial to the recovery of their young patients. Members of the management support group play a very active part in the life of Tremona Road. However, they are hampered in acting as a critical friend to the provision because they are tied into the local authority management systems. These take time to operate and consequently the response to events is often not sufficiently timely. The track record of Tremona Road's management team in bringing about improvement in areas over which they have direct control shows that they have excellent capacity to improve the provision even further.

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## Annex A

**Inspection judgements**

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
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**Overall effectiveness**

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	1
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well being?	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

**Achievement and standards**

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	3
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	1
How well learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make progress	1

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<sup>1</sup>Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average to below average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.

## Personal development and well-being

<b>How good are the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?</b>	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The extent to which learners enjoy their education	1
The attendance of learners	1
The behaviour of learners	1
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	1

## The quality of provision

<b>How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs?</b>	1
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	1
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

## Leadership and management

<b>How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?</b>	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination eliminated	1
How well does the school contribute to community cohesion?	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

**Annex B**

**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

15 May 2009

Dear Pupils

Inspection of Tremona Road Hospital And Home, Southampton, SO16 6HU

Thank you for all the help you gave me when I visited Tremona Road. I particularly enjoyed being able to talk to a good number of you. You told me very clearly that it is 'a great place to be'. In particular, you emphasised that staff are always ready to help you and that they make learning fun. You all said that the work you do enables you to deal much more effectively with your medical problems. I agree with all your very positive comments and consider that you get first-rate care and attention to ensure that you all achieve as well as you can. Tremona Road really is an excellent school.

All the staff work very hard to ensure that you are able to complete your education despite the disruptions caused by your treatments. You told me that the small group sizes are a strength and that staff are 'cool'. Sometimes decisions taken by the steering group who manage Tremona Road take too long to make and I have asked that this be improved. I know that you will all try your very best at all times to help the staff to make Tremona Road even better.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Charlton

Lead Inspector