

# Victoria House School

## Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	886/6155
Unique reference number	132101
Inspection number	317008
Inspection dates	7 October 2009
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

This inspection visit to the school was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002 at the request of the registering authority for independent schools.

Age group:

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## Purpose and scope of the visit

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002.

The visit was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

## Information about the school

Victoria House is registered as a children's home and as an approved special school to provide care and education for up to five boys and girls between the ages of eight and 17. At the time of the monitoring visit there were four young people in residence with two pupils educated in the school. The school educates pupils with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties who stay for different periods of time. The children and young people who enter Victoria House have usually experienced a disrupted education. The school seeks to provide a warm, safe and supportive environment where pupils can be helped to renew their enthusiasm for learning, tackle their challenging behaviour and come to terms with the underlying feelings that result in such behaviour. It also aims to provide a broad curriculum which is tailored to the needs of the individual pupil. The educational provision at the school is part of the full-time, all-year-round residential package provided by CastleCare. The school was registered in 2006 and is situated near Dover in Kent. The school's first inspection was in September 2007. The children's home was last inspected by Ofsted Care in January 2009.

## Context of the visit

When first inspected the school did not meet a number of regulations. A progress monitoring visit followed in March 2009 when the school met the majority of the outstanding regulations. The school submitted an action plan which was evaluated in May 2009. This second monitoring visit was to assess the school's progress in meeting the remaining regulations. These relate to the availability of suitable learning resources and the exterior condition of the school building.

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The school failed to meet the regulation concerning the range and suitability of the resources available to the students. The school has made improvements to the quality, quantity and range of resources and there are now sufficient to support the curriculum. Pupils have access to a computer which has internet access in one of the classrooms. The school has purchased a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books suitable for the age range in the school and for both boys and girls.

There have been improvements in the number of resources for other subjects, most notably mathematics, science, art, history, citizenship, geography, music, religious education and physical education. There is a suitable range of educational DVDs and CD-Roms for use by the students. The school has made good progress in implementing the agreed action plan and this regulation is now met.

The exterior of the building, including the roof, was in need of repair and, at the time of the initial inspection, was judged to be a health and safety hazard. The house is constructed with hanging clay tiles on the upper half of the exterior walls. The school had repairs undertaken to the roof and wall tiles. The repairs to the roof were judged to be satisfactory. However, the repairs to the wall tiles were judged to be inadequate at the time of the first progress monitoring visit. The school acknowledged that the work to remedy the defects on the walls had not been carried out to a sufficiently high standard. The school subsequently carried out additional work and the exterior wall tiles have now been safely secured. The exterior of the building is now of an acceptable and safe standard and is checked weekly by the school. The school has made good progress in implementing the agreed action plan and this regulation is now met.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

## School details

Name of school	Victoria House	
DCSF number	886/6155	
Unique reference number	132101	
Type of school	Residential Special School and Children's Home	
Status	Independent	
Date school opened	2006	
Age range of pupils	8-17	
Gender of pupils	Mixed	
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 2	Total: 2
Number of boarders	Boys: 2	Total: 2
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 1	Total: 1
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 2	Total: 2
Annual fees (boarders)	£209,300-£240,000	
Address of school	The Manor House Squires Hill Rothwell Northants NN14 6BQ	
Telephone number	01536 711111	
Fax number	01536 712994	
Email address	care@castlehomes.co.uk	
Headteacher	Marion Paige	
Proprietor	Catherine Dalton	
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton	
Dates of inspection	7 September 2009	