

# Fairlight Glen School

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	886/6132
Unique reference number	135623
Inspection number	343616
Inspection dates	12 October 2009
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

Age group: 11–16

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Published:

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Reference no: 090137

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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,<sup>1</sup> as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.<sup>2</sup>

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

Fairlight Glen is an independent special school located in a residential area of Herne Bay, Kent. All pupils are looked-after children and are in the care of the proprietor, Pilgrim's Corner Ltd, which operates a nearby children's home that is open 52 weeks a year. The school, which gained registration in 2007, provides education for 38 weeks a year for pupils with statements of special educational needs related to social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, alongside associated learning difficulties, notably within the autistic spectrum. It is registered for up to 12 pupils aged 11–16 years, although at the time of the inspection there were five pupils on roll. Prior to attending this school, some pupils had been out of formal education for significant periods. Pupils have been referred by local authorities nationally. The school's aim is to re-engage pupils in education so that they can achieve as much independence as possible. The headteacher joined the school on a temporary basis last term and became permanent at the start of this term.

## Context of the visit

The school was inspected in November 2008. The first progress monitoring visit took place in May 2009 when most, but not all, of the regulations were judged to have been met. The focus of this second monitoring visit was to check the school's compliance with the outstanding unmet regulations. Two lessons were observed and documentation, including planning, assessment information, pupils' individual education plans and recent work, was scrutinised. In addition, discussions were held with staff, pupils and the proprietor.

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

The school has made good progress in addressing the shortcomings identified at the time of the first monitoring visit and now meets all the regulations. The new headteacher has successfully established a calm and positive climate for learning. The November 2008 inspection and the first monitoring visit found weak and inconsistent practice in the planning of lessons. Learning outcomes were not made

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga\\_20020032\\_en\\_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162)

<sup>2</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga\\_20050018\\_en\\_15#sch8](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8)

clear. There was little evidence of effective assessment of pupils' gains in knowledge and skills. The school's provision fell short of what was required in pupils' statements of special educational needs. The present visit found that good teaching and effective systems for checking on what pupils know and can do are enabling pupils to make good progress. Lessons are now well planned, with clear objectives, which draw effectively on pupils' prior learning. Work is carefully tailored to match individual interests and needs. By deploying a wide range of effective teaching methods, staff successfully engage pupils' interest and concentration. Lessons get off to a brisk start with time and resources well used. There is a good balance between whole-class and individual teaching, which caters effectively for pupils' individual learning needs.

The provision now meets the requirements outlined in pupils' statements of special educational needs. Individual education plans set clear targets and success criteria. These are well reflected in lesson plans and in the practical support given to pupils in their learning. Regular reviews of pupils' progress, drawing on assessment information, help staff to refocus their support and move pupils' learning forward.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

## School details

Name of school	Fairlight Glen		
DCSF number	886/6132		
Unique reference number	135623		
Type of school	Independent special school for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and associated learning difficulties, notably within the autistic spectrum.		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	8 September 2008		
Age range of pupils	11–16 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 2	Girls: 3	Total: 5
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 1	Girls: 3	Total: 4
Annual fees (day pupils)	£22,800		
Address of school	Fairlight Glen Underdown Road Herne Bay Kent CT6 5BP		
Telephone number	01227 741113		
Fax number	01227 283662		
Email address	<a href="mailto:edu@pilgrimscorner.co.uk">edu@pilgrimscorner.co.uk</a>		
Headteacher	Mrs Maureen Hickford		
Proprietor	Pilgrim's Corner Education Limited		
Reporting inspector	Michael Best		
Dates of inspection	12 October 2009		