

# Wentworth Tutorial College

Independent school progress report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

Age group: 16–19

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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

Wentworth Tutorial College provides GCSE and General Certificate of Education at AS level and A level courses. There are currently 100 boys and girls on roll, of whom six are of compulsory school age. Most of the remainder are aged 16 to 19, although the school occasionally accepts students who are older. All students of compulsory school age attend full-time, and those over this age attend as needed for the courses they follow. For the majority, this is full time. The college was founded in 1989 and moved to its current premises in 1993. It occupies three adjoining converted private houses, situated on the arterial North Circular Road in Hendon, North West London. Students come from a wide range of ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. The school was last inspected in November 2008.

Wentworth Tutorial College aims to 'develop students' potential and self-confidence' and prepare them for higher education. It does this by providing 'an environment which is quite different from the traditional school'. Students are given 'opportunities to learn, free from strict rules and regulations' and follow programmes that are 'tailored to meet their individual needs'.

## Context of the visit

The college was inspected in November 2008 when it was judged to provide a good quality of education. However, a number of regulations were not met and the college was required to submit an action plan outlining what steps it was taking to address these failings. Insufficient evidence was provided for the action plan to be approved and, although requested, this was not provided within the allotted timescale. A second action plan was evaluated in July 2009 and it was judged that the action taken already or proposed by the college was inadequate, as was the timescale for implementing the proposed actions. In particular, the evaluation judged that the school's provision of training for safeguarding students was not sufficient to meet current government guidance. This is the first monitoring visit since the inspection.

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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)

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

The college has made inadequate progress in implementing its action plan in response to the inspection that took place in November 2008. Although it has drawn up plans to address the shortcomings identified in the inspection report, the large majority of its actions lack the necessary rigour and have yet to become embedded in practice. There are three exceptions to this: in each of these, the college has made satisfactory progress and now meets the regulations. It has prepared and implemented a suitable written policy to prevent bullying which has regard to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) guidance *Bullying: don't suffer in silence*. The college has also prepared and implemented an effective written policy to promote good behaviour amongst students which sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of students misbehaving. Although the college has successfully adopted the required procedures, and thus meets the regulation, for making staff appointments, its current policy has not been fully updated to reflect the new practice followed in the most recent appointment.

The college does not make suitable provision in its curriculum to give students of compulsory school age experience in the physical area of learning. There are no opportunities for students to participate in games or fitness activities. Similarly, the college has not established a programme of appropriate careers guidance for students of compulsory school age. These regulations continue not to be met.

The college has prepared and implemented a written policy to safeguard and promote the welfare of students but this does not fully comply with the DCSF guidance *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education (2007)* and therefore does not meet the regulation. In particular, it does not:

- make clear that the policy is in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures agreed through the local safeguarding board
- make clear that the policy is available to parents on the school website or, where there is no website, in hard copy on request
- set out clearly arrangements for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff including the principal and all others with regular contact with students
- make clear that the school's role should be limited to collecting the evidence and then passing this to the local safeguarding authority for advice on how to proceed
- name one or more 'designated persons' to be responsible for child protection in the college
- specifically require training in child protection and inter-agency working for the designated persons that is updated every two years
- state that any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements will be remedied immediately
- provide that the proprietor undertakes an annual review of the child protection policies and their application

- make clear that the school will inform Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but no later than 14 days, of any actual abuse or allegations of abuse on the premises
- state explicitly the reporting arrangements, making clear that the local safeguarding board must be informed and provided with the evidence within 24 hours of a disclosure or suspicion of abuse and that the college will take no further action until the advice of the local safeguarding board has been obtained
- acknowledge the requirement to report to the Independent Safeguarding Authority within one month of leaving the college any person whose services are no longer used because they are considered unsuitable to work with students.

In addition, although booked, training for the designated person has not taken place and training for the rest of the staff has yet to be arranged.

The college has recently reviewed its arrangements for ensuring the health and safety of students on educational visits. The new policy has regard for some, but not all, of the DCSF guidance *Health and safety of pupils on educational visits* (reference HSPV2) and the new procedures have yet to be fully embedded. As a result, this regulation is still not met. Similarly, the college has recently revised its health and safety policy. Whilst it has had regard for a minority of the key elements in the DCSF guidance *Health and safety: responsibilities and powers* (DCSF 0803/2001), the majority are omitted, with the result that the regulation is not met. The arrangements to ensure that the college has a satisfactory level of fire safety do not meet the regulations. There are no written records of fire alarm tests and evacuations taking place regularly, and the last written fire risk assessment is dated 2006.

The college does not meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 amended by the Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001<sup>3</sup>: although it has a disability access policy, it has not drawn up a three-year plan to increase the access for students with disabilities.

All staff are checked with the Criminal Records Bureau and key information is recorded on a single central record. However, the entries are not complete for every member of staff and there is no indication of who was responsible for making the checks listed on this record.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/ukpga\\_20010010\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/ukpga_20010010_en_1).

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection visit, the college must take action to meet the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003<sup>4</sup> as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

The college does not meet all requirements in respect of the curriculum (standard 1) and must:

- provide pupils of compulsory school age with experience in the physical area of learning (paragraph 1(2)(a)(ii))
- provide appropriate careers guidance for pupils of compulsory school age (paragraph 1(2)(g)).

The college does not meet all requirements in respect of provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety (standard 3) and must:

- prepare and implement written policies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at the school in compliance with DCSF guidance *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education (2007)* (paragraph 3(2)(b))
- prepare and implement a written policy relating to the health and safety of children on activities outside the school which has regard to DCSF guidance *Health and safety of children on educational visits* (reference HSPV2) (paragraph 3(2)(c))
- have regard to the DCSF guidance *Health and safety: responsibilities and powers* (DCSF 0803/2001) (paragraph 3(4))
- maintain a satisfactory level of fire safety, identified by its risk assessment under the *Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997*, the *Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005* and by any report from the Fire Authority (paragraph 3(5)).

The college does not meet all requirements in respect of suitability of proprietor and staff (standard 4) and must:

- keep a register which shows, in relation to each member of staff in post on or after 1 August 2007, the checks made (and certificates obtained where relevant) of: his/her identity; qualifications (where required); whether an enhanced CRB was obtained, or where appropriate, that he/she is not working in contravention of section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (List 99); the right to work in the UK and, where relevant for those who have lived outside the UK, suitability to work in a school. The register must include the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraph 4C(2 and 3)).

In order to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended (DDA) the college should devise a three-year accessibility plan.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm)

## School details

Name of school	Wentworth Tutorial College		
DCSF number	302/6109		
Unique reference number	131288		
Type of school	Tutorial		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1989		
Age range of pupils	16–19 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 55	Girls: 21	Total: 76
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 14	Girls: 10	Total: 22
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	Up to £11,400		
Address of school	6–10 Brentmead Place London NW11 9LH		
Telephone number	020 8458 8524/5		
Fax number	020 8209 1288		
Email address	enquiries@wentworthschool.co.uk		
Headteacher (Principal)	Alan Davies		
Proprietor	Alan Davies		
Reporting inspector	Michael Best		
Dates of inspection	16 November 2009		