

# Draycott Moor College

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	860/6026
Unique Reference Number (URN)	133989
Inspection number	348824
Inspection dates	25 February 2010
Reporting inspector	Saleem Hussain

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Royal Exchange Buildings  
St Ann's Square  
Manchester  
M2 7LA

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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 college has made in implementing its action plans following the previous inspection.

## Information about the college

Draycott Moor College and Manor House School are registered together as an independent day special school for 36 students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Two thirds of students have statements of special educational needs. Both sites are close to Stoke-on-Trent. The college was added to Manor House School and opened in June 2008. Manor House School was first registered in 2002 and was last inspected in September 2006. At present, as there are 20 on roll, all students attend the college and there are none at Manor House School. The college and school are owned by EduCare Adolescent Services Limited. There have been several changes of headteacher in the past five years. A new headteacher has been in post since January 2010.

The college aims to be a caring environment where students will learn skills, knowledge, understanding and social responsibility. EduCare Adolescent Services stated belief is that everyone should be enabled to fulfil their academic and personal potential and become valuable and valued citizens.

## Context of the visit

The college had its last inspection in July 2009. It was required to produce an action plan that was accepted in October 2009. A further action plan was also required and this was accepted in February 2010. This is the report of the first monitoring visit to evaluate overall progress against the college's action plans.

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

At the last inspection of the college, the quality of education was judged to be inadequate because the curriculum, teaching and assessment were ineffective in ensuring the college met all of its aims. A number of regulations were not met. As a result, students' progress was inadequate overall, although it was good in

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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)

mathematics. It was also recognised that college staff met students' behavioural, emotional and social needs by offering them good support through positive relationships and good welfare provision.

The curriculum was inadequately planned and implemented to ensure that students were challenged academically. Planning in a few subjects was insufficient. This included English with too few opportunities to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. This affected students with statements of special educational needs the most and restricted their progress in literacy. Also, accreditation on offer did not sufficiently challenge the more able students. Teachers' lesson planning seldom took into consideration students' prior attainments. As a result, students' work was not challenging enough. A further weakness in teaching was that teachers often did not accomplish what they intended to, for example running out of time to summarise the work at the end of lessons. There was no satisfactory means to establish each student's attainment when they were first admitted. Also, assessment was not based securely on the frequent, accurate assessment of students' progress in lessons and over time.

The operations manager for education services and the new headteacher developed action plans with clear strategies and procedures to remedy the weaknesses identified at the inspection. Following the inspection, the college reviewed curricular planning to ensure that students of all abilities, including those with statements of special educational needs were sufficiently challenged. The college reviewed plans and schemes of work for all the subjects taught and identified any gaps in the documentation. The college created additional opportunities for students to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills across the curriculum. The college also increased the range of accredited courses on offer to ensure that all students, including the most able, had opportunities to gain appropriate qualifications. The new headteacher quickly implemented a new monitoring regime. She carries out many 'learning walks' in college and frequently checks the quality of planning and teaching. This includes checks of the use of assessment information, lesson structure and progress. A new assessment policy and procedures were developed to ensure that students are assessed promptly when they first join the college and regularly afterwards.

As a result of fully implementing the action plans, the college has now remedied all the shortcomings.

The impact of strong leadership and rigorous monitoring of provision has led to significant improvements. Much better curricular planning has resulted in students being provided with more challenging learning opportunities. The college has successfully introduced a wider range of accreditations to cater for the needs of the more able students. Qualifications on offer now include opportunities to gain accreditation in more GCSE subjects, including entry level options. The college now implements comprehensive curriculum plans for all subjects. The development of reading, writing, speaking and listening is now a clear focus in many subjects in addition to English. For example, a science lesson observed included good

opportunities to improve listening and writing. Teachers' planning ensures that students with statements of special educational needs are satisfactorily provided for in lessons. Records of achievement and lessons observed provide evidence that all students are now better equipped for the future in regard to literacy skills. This is making a good contribution to the preparation of students for the opportunities of adult life and economic well-being.

The quality of teaching observed during this visit was satisfactory and occasionally good. Teachers now ensure that they have a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the students and take these into account in the planning of lessons. This ensures that everyone is sufficiently challenged. Lessons are structured effectively. Class time is managed wisely and teachers summarise the work at the end of lessons. The college now has an improved assessment policy and procedures in place. Baseline assessments are carried out in English, mathematics and science. Frequent and on-going assessment culminates in end of term tests. Students' performance is evaluated accurately using National Curriculum level descriptors. The college uses assessment information satisfactorily to plan teaching and to set learning targets. The college's records and lessons observed provide evidence that rates of progress are improving.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

## College details

Name of college	Draycott Moor College		
DCSF number	860/6026		
Unique reference number (URN)	133989		
Type of college	Special school for students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties		
Status	Independent		
Date college opened	June 2008		
Age range of students	11-16		
Gender of students	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time students)	Boys: 16	Girls: 4	Total: 20
Number of students with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 15	Girls: 1	Total: 16
Number of students who are looked after	Boys: 2	Girls: 3	Total: 5
Annual fees (day students)	£38,025		
Address of college	Draycott Moor College Draycott Old Road Draycott in the Moors Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9AH		
Telephone number	01782 399849		
Fax number	01782 384424		
Email address	<a href="mailto:draycotthead@educareservices.co.uk">draycotthead@educareservices.co.uk</a>		
Headteacher	Miss Debbie Garratt		
Proprietor	Mr Brian Scanlon		
Reporting inspector	Saleem Hussain		
Dates of inspection	25 February 2010		

