

Haddon Dene School

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	886/6022
Unique Reference Number (URN)	118962
Inspection number	353794
Inspection dates	26 February 2010
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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 2002¹, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005².

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

Haddon Dene School was founded in 1929 and occupies two large, adjacent former houses near to the centre of Broadstairs, Kent. The school currently has 102 pupils aged three to 11 years. There are 13 pupils below the compulsory school age. It is non-selective and provides additional support for pupils with specific learning difficulties. Currently, the school has no pupils who have statements of special educational needs. Class sizes are generally 16 or fewer pupils. There is one mixed-ability class in each year. Almost all pupils take the 11-plus examination in their final year and go on to local grammar schools. The school offers childcare in the Early Birds and After School clubs for some pupils over the age of three, for which registration is not required. The school aims 'to value the individual nature of each child' and that 'every child, including the slower learner, must be given a sense of self-worth'.

Context of the visit

The school submitted an action plan in October 2009 to address the requirements that were not met at the time of the inspection in June 2009. The school's proposals, and the time scale for their implementation, were judged to be satisfactory. This is the first monitoring visit to check the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

While some progress has been made with the implementation of the action plan, not all of the requirements are met.

When the school was inspected in June 2007, the curriculum for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage neither met statutory requirements nor was appropriate to their needs. Since then, and with the support of the local authority, the school has reviewed and revised its provision to include a wider range of child-chosen activities across the areas of learning. New arrangements for assessing children's progress have been implemented and the information gathered is being increasingly used to inform the next steps in children's learning. The requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are now satisfactorily met.

The school's policy for the prevention of bullying did not meet requirements at the time of the last inspection. The school submitted a revised policy with its action plan but this was unsatisfactory. The policy has subsequently been reviewed and further revised. It now meets requirements.

The last inspection identified the narrow staircase between the first and second floors in the junior school as a potential risk to safe evacuation. The school commissioned a professional fire risk assessment in November 2009 which advised that the staircase was not a risk because the 'protected corridor' on the first floor was within the recommended 'safe travel distance' for fire evacuation from the second floor. However, the school does not meet the requirement to ensure that fire evacuations can be accomplished safely for all pupils because the protection of the corridor on the first floor is compromised by a defective automatic door closer which holds one of the fire doors permanently open.

The 2009 inspection report noted that there was no supply of hot water to the hand basins in the infants' toilets. In its action plan, the school maintained that this was not required but, in the light of the evaluation of the plan, has now accepted that this is required. The school has obtained and accepted a quotation for the necessary works to be undertaken in April 2010 when the school is closed for Easter. The last inspection also found that, contrary to requirements, the room designated for pupils who were ill did not contain a hand basin. This is still the case. These requirements remain unmet.

At the time of the last inspection, the school did not meet all of the requirements to provide information to parents and prospective parents. These requirements are now met. The proprietor's address and telephone number has been circulated to parents and is posted on the main notice board. Parents and prospective parents are made aware that they can view relevant policies and documents on request from the school office.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection visit, the school must take action to meet the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003³ as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that emergency evacuations can be accomplished safely for all pupils (paragraph 5(g))
- provide hot water in the washbasins in the infants' toilets (paragraph 5 (k))
- provide a hand basin in the room designated for pupils who are ill (paragraph 5(l)).

³ www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm

School details

Name of school	Haddon Dene School		
DCSF number	886/6022		
Unique reference number (URN)	118962		
Type of school	Primary		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1929		
Age range of pupils	3-11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 45	Girls: 53	Total: 98
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 2	Girls: 2	Total: 4
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£4,950 - £6,135		
Address of school	57 Gladstone Road Broadstairs Kent CT10 2HY		
Telephone number	01843 861176		
Fax number	01843 866253		
Email address	secretary@haddondene.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mr David Alexander		
Proprietor	Mr Ali Khan		
Reporting inspector	Michael Best		
Dates of inspection	26 February 2010		