

Lime Meadows

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	357/6056
Unique Reference Number	130913
Inspection number	354030
Inspection dates	30 March 2010
Reporting inspector	Saleem Hussain

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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

Lime Meadows is a small special school owned by Whistledawn Ltd and run by Northern Care. It provides education for up to six students between the ages of 14 and 18 years who board for 52 weeks a year in a small residential provision. The school was opened in September 2001. Currently there are six students between the ages of 15 and 18 years attending the school. One has a statement of special educational needs. The students are placed at Lime Meadows by a number of different local authorities. Some students have had periods in the past when they have not attended school or have been excluded from education.

Context of the visit

The boarding provision was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2009. The school had its last inspection of education in March 2009. It was required to produce an action plan that was accepted in July 2009. This is the report of the first monitoring visit to evaluate progress against the school's action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the last inspection of the school, the quality of education was judged to be good. Students made good progress and by the time they left they achieved a range of external accreditation. The school met most of the independent schools regulations. However, there was a weakness in identifying and recording students' progress. This was because the school did not create a baseline assessment or assess students against a suitable measure such as National Curriculum levels. The school was therefore unable to monitor students' progress effectively and, precise information about each student's progress was missing from school reports to their parents. The school's safeguarding procedures were judged to be good. However, the school's single central register of staff did not meet all of the requirements with regard to recording the date when each check was completed. Finally, the school's admission register had information missing.

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

The company's education manager and the headteacher developed an action plan with clear strategies and procedures to remedy the weaknesses identified. In order to resolve the shortcomings in relation to assessment the school intended to revise its policy and procedures. New guidance was to be provided in the policy to teachers about carrying out baseline assessments. This guidance was also to include details about the skills that were to be assessed when students first started at the school and tests that were to be undertaken at the end of each half-term. In addition, the school was to develop monitoring forms for teachers to record the weekly progress made by each student in all subjects. The school was also to produce an overall summary of progress for students. Senior managers were to ensure that parents received better quality information in school reports about their children's progress. The school planned to review the single central register of staff to ensure that it included dates for all the checks completed. The school was also to check that the admission register contained all the required information.

As a result of fully implementing the action plan, the school has remedied all the weaknesses. In relation to assessment, the school has now established a system whereby students' attainment and progress is measured in relation to National Curriculum levels and is recorded and monitored effectively. The school's revised assessment policy is fully implemented. Teachers have carried out baseline assessments in English, mathematics and science for each student. Ongoing assessment is carried out in all taught subjects using the weekly progress-monitoring forms. The school also carries out end-of-half-term tests in English, mathematics and science. All this information is used effectively to produce an overall summary of the students' progress. The quality of information to parents now meets requirements because school reports are more precise about progress and attainment. In relation to safeguarding, the school's single central register of staff now includes dates to show when each check was completed. Similarly, the school's admission register contains all the necessary information.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

Name of school	Lime Meadows
DCSF number	357/6056
Unique reference number	130913
Type of school	Special school for students with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties
Status	Independent
Date school opened	September 2001
Age range of students	14–18 years
Gender of students	Boys
Number on roll (full-time students)	5
Number on roll (part-time students)	1
Number of students with a statement of special educational need	1
Annual fees (boarders)	£171,600
Telephone number	01253 316160 (Company office)
Email address	limes.education@northern-care.co.uk
Headteacher	Ms Karen Barber
Proprietor	Whistledawn Ltd; trading as Northern Care
Reporting inspector	Mr Saleem Hussain
Dates of inspection	30 March 2010