

Woodhill Preparatory School

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	850/6014
Unique Reference Number (URN)	116540
URN for registered childcare and social care	516837 and 584952
Inspection number	354277
Inspection dates	20 May 2010
Reporting inspector	Champak Chauhan

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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

Woodhill Preparatory School is an independent day school situated on two sites at Chandlers Ford and Botley in Hampshire. Both establishments provide for girls and boys aged from three to 11 years. There are currently 205 pupils on roll; of these, 47 children are in the Early Years Foundation Stage and all receive nursery funding. 30 children attend part time. Woodhill is a non-selective school and admits pupils with a wide range of abilities. One pupil who attends has a statement of special educational needs and one child is in the early stages of learning English as an additional language. The school provides an after-school care club for pupils at both sites and pupils can stay on at school until 6.00pm every day. In addition, there is a before-school care club which runs at the Chandlers Ford site. This provision is inspected as part of the main school's inspection.

The school aims to: provide a happy atmosphere in which pupils can thrive and feel successful; provide children with the opportunity for academic success; and provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities within the wider curriculum. The school opened in 1969.

Context of the visit

Following the school's inspection in November 2009 it drew up an action plan to address those regulations that were judged not to be met. This was evaluated in February 2010 and found to be satisfactory subject to implementation by the school. This is the first monitoring visit to the school to follow up its progress.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The school is making satisfactory progress in implementing its action plan, but it needs to address two regulations which are not yet met.

At the time of the last inspection, the school did not ensure that policies and procedures regarding child protection complied fully with the national guidance

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

issued by the government's Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) because three teachers had not completed their training in child protection. This requirement is now met. Two were trained early in December 2009. The remaining teacher completed the training in April 2010.

The school did not meet all requirements for checks prior to the confirmation of the appointment of all staff. The school reviewed and revised its procedures for staff recruitment. This requirement is now almost met. However, the school's single central record of staff checks still does not contain all the required information.

The school did not meet requirements regarding the quality of its accommodation and the hygienic preparation of food in the kitchens. At the time of the November 2009 inspection, hot water was not available in all the washrooms and the school did not have a proper medical room for pupils who might become unwell. The hot water system was surveyed and the school has now taken appropriate steps to ensure that hot water is available in all the washrooms on both sites. A medical room with appropriate facilities has been created. Kitchen staff have access to hats and gloves to be worn when food is prepared and served, and hair nets are also available.

When inspected in November 2009, the school was not meeting a number of regulations relating to the provision of information for parents, carers and others. Almost all this information is now provided. The school's policy on child protection is available on its website and it is also available from the school. However, this policy does not fully explain the duties of the school in relation to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

In its inspection in November 2009, the school did not ensure that its complaints procedure stipulated that a copy of the findings and recommendations made by a panel would be available for inspection on the school premises and the procedure did not provide for written records to be kept of all complaints indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing. These requirements are now met.

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 the school's duties in relation to the Independent Safeguarding Authority are fully explained in its policy on child protection (paragraph 3(2)(b))
- ensure that all the required information is contained within the single central record (paragraphs 4C(2) and 4C(3)).

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

School details

Name of school	Woodhill Preparatory School		
DCSF number	850/6014		
Unique reference number (URN)	116540		
EY URN (for registered childcare only)	516837 (Chandlers Ford); 584952 (Botley)		
Type of school	Preparatory school		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	September 1969		
Age range of pupils	3–11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 98	Girls: 77	Total: 175
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 15	Girls: 15	Total: 30
Number of pupils aged 0-3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 9	Girls: 9	Total: 18
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
Annual fees (day pupils)	£4,695		
Address of school	61 Brownhill Road Chandlers Ford Eastleigh SO53 2ER		
Telephone number	02380 268012		
Fax number	02380 268012		
Email address	office-cf@woodhill.hants.sch.uk		
Headteachers	Mr Mike Dacombe and Mr Mark Raisborough		
Proprietor	Mrs Marjorie Dacombe		
Reporting inspector	Mr Champak Chauhan		
Dates of inspection	20 May 2010		