

Wentworth Tutorial College

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	302/6109
Unique Reference Number (URN)	131288
Inspection number	354320
Inspection dates	29 April 2010
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

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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 2005.

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 Advanced Level courses. There are currently 86 boys and girls on roll, of whom seven are of compulsory school age. Most of the remainder are aged 16 to 19, although the college accepts occasional students who are older than this. 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 busy North Circular Road in Hendon, North West London. Students come from a wide range of ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. The college was inspected in March 2005 and 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 a number of regulations were not met, relating to the physical education curriculum, careers guidance and policies and practices regarding the health, safety and welfare of the students. Certain elements were missing from the single central register of staff appointments. The college had not devised a three-year accessibility plan to address the Disability Discrimination Act. An action plan was submitted and evaluated in February 2010. It was found to be broadly satisfactory but in need of some improvement as it made no provision for the effectiveness of the outcomes to be evaluated by named individuals.

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

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The college did not meet all the regulations relating to the curriculum as students below the age of 16 did not have the opportunity for physical or sporting activity, as required. A link with a local sports centre has been established and students now attend on Wednesday afternoons for a variety of physical activities.

Careers education was found to be limited as it focused unduly on academic choice for further and higher education. The careers education programme now also gives guidance to the few students who may not continue in education when they leave the college.

The welfare, health and safety of the students were not secured by suitable policies and procedures. Staff were not trained in safeguarding to meet the current guidance. The nominated person responsible for safeguarding has now attended preliminary training and the further required training is to be completed in May 2010. The rest of the staff will then need to be trained and arrangements to do this have been made. The safeguarding policy has yet to be reviewed in order to ensure that it meets the current guidance. The policy to ensure the welfare, health and safety of the students on educational visits was insufficiently detailed. This has been revised and implemented. Fire safety was judged unsatisfactory in the November 2008 inspection. A detailed fire risk assessment had not been carried out and a number of procedures were unsatisfactory. A member of staff has since trained as a fire marshal. Weekly alarm testing is now carried out, professional checks on fire appliances are carried out annually, appropriate fire signage is in place and fire drills are held and documented termly. A professional fire risk consultant has been booked to carry out a risk assessment on the premises, but this has not yet been carried out. Risk assessments relating to students' visits off the premises were not carried out correctly. The associated policy and risk assessment forms have been revised and these risk assessments are now carried out satisfactorily. The college now maintains a single central register of staff checks as required. In order to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2002 the college has devised a three-year accessibility plan.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection visit, the college must take urgent action to meet the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003² as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that the designated member of staff attends the full safeguarding training course and that all staff are trained in safeguarding. Review the policy to ensure that it meets the current guidance (paragraph 3(2)(b))

² www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm

- ensure that the college has a satisfactory level of fire safety to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by carrying out a fire risk assessment (paragraph 3(5)).

School details

Name of school	Wentworth Tutorial College		
DCSF number	302/6109		
Unique reference number (URN)	131288		
Type of school	Tutorial college		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1989		
Age range of pupils	15–19 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 45	Girls: 15	Total: 60
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 14	Girls: 12	Total: 26
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,450 – £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@wentworthcollege.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mr Alan Davies		
Proprietor	Mr Alan Davies		
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton		
Dates of inspection	29 April 2010		