

CATs Canterbury

Inspection report for boarding school

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Inspector	Mark Blesky
Type of Inspection	Random

Address	CATs Canterbury 68 New Dover Road CANTERBURY Kent CT1 3LQ
Telephone number	01227 866450
Email	
Registered person	Marie-Louise Banning
Head / Principal	Marie-Louise Banning
Nominated person	
Date of last inspection	15 May 2008

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

The Cambridge Arts and Sciences (CATS) College in Canterbury was founded in west London in 1952 and was originally known as Stafford House Tutorial College. It is owned by the Cambridge Education Group under the proprietorship of Palamon, a private equity company. The college relocated to Canterbury in 1974 and in 2007 its name was changed to CATS Canterbury in order to align itself with its sister college, CATS Cambridge.

This college provides education and residential accommodation to students aged 15 years and above. The majority of students are aged from 16 to 19 years and, with the exception of one student who lives locally, all are from overseas.

Summary

This was an announced interim inspection to follow up on the recommendations made at the last inspection of 15 May 2008. Recommendations from the outcome groups Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Economic Wellbeing and Organisation were therefore inspected. The school has taken appropriate action to resolve previous recommendations.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

The school has responded well to the recommendations that were made at the last inspection visit in May 2008. All recommendations that were made have been addressed by the school's senior management team. Some review continues with regards to complaints and the catering arrangements and it is acknowledged that these reviews are appropriate and proportionate. All other recommendations have been fully addressed and all staff spoken to were very supportive to the inspection process and agreeable and proactive to these report findings.

The Principal has taken appropriate steps to improve the quality of the school for young people.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Appropriate first aid and minor illness treatments are available from trained staff members. All young people have regular general health, dental and ophthalmic services. Boarders are able to choose from available general practitioners and staff are aware of the need to provide for diversity and more typically gender specific choice. Consent for all treatments and administration is agreed with the parents of boarders. All medical interventions are recorded by staff members.

Meals are provided for all boarders and there is a range of choices to meet vegetarian options. Although meals are nutritious and are served in adequate quantities generally, food was not found to be appetising. A group of students said that the food on offer is not popular with them and is not enjoyable. Staff members spoken to at the time of the inspection also expressed some dissatisfaction with the menu. Young people say that they often use the confectionery in the vending machines as an alternative to the provided meals. Although food is served in adequate quantities, choice was somewhat limited and appeared poorly planned. The dining area at the time of the inspection was not well presented in the marquee area. A problem with

condensation has exasperated the presentation. It is acknowledged planning is underway for a new dining area to be built, which will take many months. The school is in the process of appointing an external catering company to address these problems. Therefore, the school are now addressing these matters appropriately although it was noted that the school should have been more expeditious during the interim arrangements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

A comprehensive anti-bullying procedure and guidance is in place. Although students say that bullying is rare in this school, staff remain vigilant to this. Child protection training also incorporates students that may have experienced bullying. The school has a trained child protection co-ordinator. The majority of key staff members have attended training with the final few awaiting the next training course. The school has a detailed child protection policy and all staff members meet regularly with the child protection co-ordinator to discuss safeguarding. Complaints are generally made verbally to the appropriate staff, but procedures are in place for formal complaints to be reported and investigated. A complaints policy is also available for parents to use if they wish to make representation to the school. The complaints policy was being reviewed at the time of this inspection. The Vice Principal confirmed that the review is intended to make student complaints easier to record with additional auditing and monitoring elements. Risk assessments are carried out on all school buildings and boarding areas to ensure environmental factors are considered. In addition, the specific needs and activities of the students are also incorporated into the risk assessment process.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Not Judged

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Not Judged

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

Boarding sleeping areas are pleasant and well furnished. Each room is decorated with possessions and posters to the individual taste of the boarder. All boarders have, either a single room or they share a double room. Rooms are large and spacious and comfortably furnished and have en suite facilities. It was noted that some rooms were untidy and contained discarded cups and plates. Whilst boarders may wish to be a bit untidy, some rooms had been allowed to become too messy. Communal areas however in boarding houses are clean and tidy with suitable facilities and equipment for all the boarders.

Adequate toilet and washing facilities are readily accessible to boarders, with appropriate privacy. It is noted that two rooms are very close to the street and as such, the public are able to look into rooms where curtains are open. The school is planning to fit blinds or net curtains to address this. Some boarders say that they are cold at night, although portable heaters are

available to supplement the central heating. All boarding areas are well maintained with effective maintenance schedules.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The child protection co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring risk assessments, punishments, accidents, and complaints. All risk assessments are regularly reviewed and monitoring is carried out by the senior management team. Monitoring of sanctions and accidents is also conducted by the child protection co-ordinator. Boarders are able to communicate complaint and representation by using welfare forms. Issues can then be either individually addressed or in the case of broader issues through the school council. School council meetings are held regularly although boarders say that the minutes of the meetings are not on display. The Vice Principal stated that school council minutes will be made available promptly following school council meetings to ensure the views of the boarders are recorded.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure meals are adequate in quantity, quality and choice. Ensure that healthy eating is promoted by introducing systems to monitor vending machine use NMS 24.
- ensure boarding houses and other areas for boarders are clean NMS 40
- ensure boarding areas visible to the public are provided with curtains or blinds to discourage unauthorised access to boarding houses and other school buildings used by boarders NMS 41
- ensure representations and expressed views during the school council meetings are published and available for boarders NMS 23