

## Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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School name	Little Acorns School
DfE registration number	886/6085
Unique Reference Number (URN)	131810
Inspection number	375533
Inspection dates	20 May 2011
Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland

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Royal Exchange Buildings  
St Ann's Square  
Manchester  
M2 7LA

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## **Purpose and scope of the inspection**

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

The inspection 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**

The school opened in 1999, and is part of a small therapeutic community that specialises in working with boys and girls who have severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Most pupils have a statement of special educational needs related to these difficulties and some pupils have additional learning difficulties. The school is registered for seven places. There are currently seven pupils attending the school, aged between nine and 14 years of age. All of these are resident at the children's home adjacent to the school and are in the care of a local authority, which funds the placements.

## **Context of the inspection**

The school's inspection in January 2010 identified a number of regulations that were not met. The school drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report, which was evaluated in May 2010 and judged to be inadequate. The school submitted a revised action plan which, although needing improvement, was accepted as satisfactory in September 2010. Then the school received a progress monitoring visit in January 2011 and was found to have addressed most, but not all, of the shortcomings identified in the report of the inspection in January 2010.

The school submitted an action plan, which was evaluated and accepted in March 2011. This is the report of the second monitoring visit to check the progress the school has made in implementing its latest action plan.

## **Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan**

At the time of the progress monitoring visit in January 2011, the proprietor did not provide each local authority funding pupils at the school with the required annual account of income received and expenditure incurred for each pupil. This omission has been remedied. The proprietor has prepared a financial balance sheet for the school and children's home. The management of the school now ensures that an annual account of income received and expenditure incurred by the school in respect

of each pupil is submitted to the referring local authority and is also available on request to the Secretary of State.

The last progress monitoring visit of January 2011 found that the school did not have a three-year accessibility plan for the premises and curriculum. The school has now devised a disability policy and has drawn up a three-year accessibility improvement plan to fulfil its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001. This requirement, noted in both the 2007 and 2010 inspection reports, is now fully met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Special school for pupils with severe behavioural, emotional and social difficulties		
<b>Date school opened</b>	1999		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	5–14 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 6	Girls: 1	Total: 7
<b>Number of boarders</b>	Boys: 6	Girls: 1	Total: 7
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 6	Girls: 0	Total: 6
<b>Number of pupils who are looked after</b>	Boys: 6	Girls: 1	Total: 7
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	£171,169		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Angela Flynn and Lorraine Putt		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Choice Lifestyles		