

The Danesfield Manor School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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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.^{1,2}

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 Danesfield Manor School is a non-selective independent primary school. It first opened as Danesfield School in 1943 and since that time has had two changes of ownership. In 2006 it became one of a group of schools managed by CfBT Education Trust, which is a registered charity. The school is situated in a Victorian building within a residential area of Walton-on-Thames, in Surrey. The school has recently changed its admission policy to take children from two years and above and no longer admits children from three months of age. Boys and girls can remain at the school until they are 11 years of age. The school also provides before- and after-school care for its pupils aged four to eleven years. There are currently 166 pupils and children on the school's roll, including 23 children in the child-care provision; 49 children are in receipt of government nursery funding. There are no pupils who have a statement of special educational needs or who are looked after by the local authority. The school aims to offer its pupils 'a welcoming environment where they are safe to make mistakes and learn from them, where they can take on challenges and know they will be supported'.

Context of the inspection

The school underwent a light touch inspection by Ofsted in September 2010 when it was judged to provide a good quality of education and to meet most, but not all, of the regulations for registration as an independent school. That inspection found that the effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage setting was satisfactory, including the registered childcare provision for children under three years of age which met the requirements of the early years register.

The school was visited by a childcare inspector in October 2011 and, in an unannounced visit, by an education inspector in November 2011 following a complaint to the Department for Education. The reports of these inspections were not published but the school was required to submit an action plan to address the two additional regulations that were found not to be met. The action plan was evaluated and accepted by Ofsted in January 2012. This is the first monitoring visit to the school to check the progress the school has made in addressing its action

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents.

plan. At the request of the Department, this visit also checked the progress the school has made in addressing the regulations that were not met at the time of the inspection in September 2010.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

When the school was inspected in September 2010, the designated person for child protection had not attended and completed the required higher level training. A suitable course was booked during the course of that inspection and completed later in the term. Since then the school has arranged for three other staff to attend and complete higher level training to provide the required level of expertise at all times that the school and the childcare provision are operating. This present inspection visit found that the school's procedures are robust and that refresher training at the appropriate level is routinely undertaken.

The inspection in September 2010 found that, as at the time of the previous inspection in 2006, the regulations relating to classroom size and the facilities for pupils who become ill at school were not met. This present inspection visit found that the completion of the new classroom block and the relocation of classes, following the decision to no longer make provision for children under two years, have enabled the school to meet the regulations. Classrooms are now of adequate size for the numbers, ages and needs of pupils on roll. The school's plans to further extend the latest classroom block will provide for improved access to the outside area for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school has made suitable provision for pupils who might be ill.

The inspection visit in November 2011 found that the school was not taking effective action to safeguard pupils' health and safety because it did not ensure that there were adequate security arrangements in place for the grounds and buildings. The school's action plan to address these failings was accepted, subject to satisfactory implementation being checked on a subsequent visit to the school. This present inspection visit found that the school has implemented all the proposals in its action plan, including the installation of electrically-controlled locks, intercom and alarm systems, and new fencing and gates. The security arrangements for the grounds and buildings are now suitable for the age of pupils and the location of the school. The school has undertaken appropriate risk assessments and provided staff with written guidance and training in implementing its security procedures. These are monitored regularly by the Principal and records show that the systems for dealing with any issues that arise are robust.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Primary		
Date school opened	1943		
Age range of pupils	2–11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 63	Girls: 50	Total: 113
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 17	Girls: 13	Total: 30
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 13	Girls: 10	Total: 23
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,450–£6,750		
Annual fees (childcare)	£2,092–£15,840		
Address of school	11 Rydens Avenue Walton on Thames Surrey KT12 3JB		
Telephone number	01932 220930		
Email address	hchalmers@danefieldmanorschool.co.uk		
Headteacher	Helen Chalmers (Principal)		
Proprietor	CFBT Education Trust		