

Centre Academy East Anglia

Brettenham, Ipswich, IP7 7QR

Inspection dates 24 September 2014

Overall outcome **Unmet independent school standards identified**

Reason for the inspection

- Three qualifying complaints were received by the Department of Education (DfE) raising concerns about pupils' welfare, health and safety.
- HMI were not required to investigate the complaints but the concerns that the complaints gave rise to were followed up in detail during the inspection so as to evaluate the school's compliance with the standards for independent schools.
- Inspectors gathered evidence on all of the standards included in Part 3 of the regulations (welfare, health and safety of pupils), Part 6 (provision of information) and Part 7 (manner in which complaints are to be handled).

Main findings

- Arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare, health and safety of pupils are inadequate because they do not have regard to the most recent statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Staff, including the designated safeguarding lead are trained in child protection to the correct level but all were unaware of the existence of new statutory guidance.
- The school's child protection policy lacks sufficient detail to provide clear guidance for staff to follow on types of abuse and neglect and the procedures for making referrals.
- The designated lead is swift to act on information and confident in making referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer and/or other agencies. However, systems for record keeping are weak.
- Arrangements for safe recruitment and vetting of staff meet requirements.
- The school has written and implemented behaviour and anti-bullying policies. These are clear to pupils, staff and parents. Pupils have a sound understanding of different types of bullying, e-safety and who to go to if they feel worried, harassed or bullied. They have faith in the staff to help them to resolve any difficulties.
- Arrangements for health and safety meet requirements although staff are not always as conscientious as they should be about closing gates and locking cupboards containing cleaning materials.
- Risk assessments are completed and documented including those for educational visits, fire and electrical safety checks are completed annually. Pupils have regular fire drills so they know what to do in the event of a fire.
- First aid arrangements are carried out diligently and effectively by trained first aiders. Staff responsible for first aid are trained fully to administer first aid and prescribed medication. Record keeping is meticulous as is the storage of equipment and medicines.

Even so, there is no-one trained as a paediatric first aider to administer first aid in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school is rectifying this shortcoming.

- Pupils are well supervised and receive sensitive support. Serious misbehaviour is recorded. Admission and attendance registers meet requirements.
- Information provided for parents through the school's website or directly from the school meets requirements. Staff provide reports to parents about pupils' progress and attainment three times a year in addition to half-termly effort reports.
- The school provides annual accounts of income and expenditure of funding received by local authorities placing pupils at the school.
- The school has a written complaints procedure that meets requirements and is available to parents.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended, and associated requirements

- The school must ensure that arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school are effectively implemented and have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7).

Inspection team

Linda Killman, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Mary Rayner

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- This is an independent residential special school for a maximum of 50 boys and girls, including 29 places for boarders. The school's registration allows for a maximum of eight pupils between the ages of four and seven years. Currently, there are three children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and 12 in the sixth form.
- In total there are 41 pupils on roll up to the age of 18 years.
- Pupils' special educational needs include dyslexia, dyspraxia, Asperger's syndrome, autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Thirty four pupils have statements of special educational needs. Some pupils are funded by their local authorities. These include Hertfordshire, Essex, London and Suffolk.
- Alongside the purpose of providing a good quality education, the school aims to be a place 'where confidence grows day by day'.

School details

Unique reference number	124890
Inspection number	451001
DfE registration number	935/6058

This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Independent school
School status	Independent residential special school
Age range of pupils	5–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	44
Of which, number of pupils in the sixth form	12
Number of part time pupils	None
Number of boarders on roll	14
Proprietor	Margaret Murphy
Chair	Sean White
Headteacher	Kim Salthouse
Date of previous school inspection	30 May 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£18,00-£25,000
Annual fees (boarders)	£24,999-£36,225
Telephone number	01449 736404
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