



Office for Standards
in Education

K-Bis Theatre School

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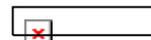
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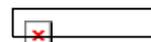
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Purpose and scope of the inspection



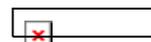
This inspection was carried out by the Office for Standards in Education under Section 163 of the Education Act 2002 in order to advise the Secretary of State for Education and Skills about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Information about the school



The school accepts a wide age range (5 - 18) of boys and girls, enters its pupils for GCSE and A level while providing access to qualifications in dance, music and drama. Pupils are welcome to join the school at any stage in their school career.

Summary of main findings

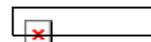


What the school does well



- the school offers a well balanced curriculum taught by a dedicated staff focused on the needs of individuals;
- teaching is very good, and in both the specialist and academic curriculum there is some outstanding teaching;
- the school provides high levels of care for its students;
- the headteacher provides dynamic leadership for the school;
- pupils behave well and are enabled to become increasingly independent as they move through the school; and
- provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is very good.

What the school must do in order to comply with the regulations



In order to comply with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2003 the school should:

- ensure that there are appropriate facilities for pupils who are ill.

Compliance with the regulations for registration



1. The quality of education provided by the school

The quality of the curriculum

The organisation of the school day allows for a fluid transition between and interaction of both the academic and specialist curricula. GCSE and Advanced level (A level) courses in the performing theatre and media arts are taught throughout the extended day. This imaginative and creative interaction enables the school to make use of all the available accommodation for the benefit of the pupils.

The quality of the teaching and assessment

The pupils' work is marked regularly and in some cases very thoroughly. The comments the teachers make are encouraging and are most effective when they give the pupils guidance for further improvement. However, greater consistency is required.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

2. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school provides good opportunities, both within the academic and specialist curriculum, for pupils to gain an understanding of their own and other cultures through a wide range of performances, theatre trips and educational visits.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

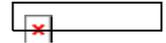
3. The welfare, health and safety of the pupils

Attendance registers and the admissions register are in order.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

4. The suitability of the proprietor and staff

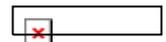


The proprietor is rigorous in her procedures for appointing staff. All the necessary staff checks are carried out with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). Teachers are suitably qualified and well deployed. In addition, the specialist curriculum teachers have to meet high fitness criteria to fulfil their roles.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

5. The suitability of the premises and accommodation



The school is the sole occupier of two floors of accommodation attached to a church. This accommodation is no longer used by the church or any other party, although on Sundays a passage way is opened to enable a disabled worshipper to attend church.

Overall, accommodation is satisfactory and meets the requirements of the academic and specialist curriculum for the current number of pupils. However, there is no specialist accommodation for science and design and technology, but the school uses its space sensibly to provide for these curriculum areas. There is no outside play space belonging to the school, but facilities in the local park are used for sporting activities. There is no discrete library space, but every classroom area has a considerable resource of text books and other reading materials.

Classrooms vary in size but are adequate for the number of pupils in them. There is scope for further refurbishment to improve the aesthetic appearance of the classrooms, including the celebration and display of pupils' work.

The larger studio space provides satisfactory accommodation for performance work. However, the frequent demands on the use of this area for dance restricts the opportunities for drama groups, which at times are taught in fairly limited spaces. Adjoining open-plan teaching areas are not adversely affected by noise because sound-proofing is good.

The school is satisfactorily maintained and kept reasonably clean. Storage space is limited and books are often shelved in a ramshackle manner. Resources to support teaching could be improved, particularly for investigative work in science and mathematics.

Changing room accommodation is cramped and there are no showering facilities. Toilet facilities are adequate but no more. Further expansion would require increased provision. The current facilities for pupils requiring medical attention are unsatisfactory.

The school takes the security arrangements for its building and provision seriously and these are effective.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

No.

What does the school need to do to comply with the regulations?

In order to comply with the Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2003 the school should:

- *provide appropriate facilities for children who are ill (paragraph 5(l)).*

6. The quality of information for parents and other partners

The school fulfils all its obligations under this section. Information flow is effective, both at formal and informal levels. Parents are kept well informed of the school's policies and activities through regular bulletins and newssheets, and also of children's progress through the annual report.

Verbal communication at all levels in the school is direct, helpful and inter-active. Parents were wholly supportive of what the school had done for their children and commented positively on the family atmosphere, ease of access to teachers and the enjoyment their children expressed about the school.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

7. The effectiveness of the school's procedures for handling complaints

The school has a clear procedure for handling complaints which fully meets the requirements of the regulations. Although it appears effective on paper, the procedure has not yet been put to use.

Parents comment favourably on the ease of access to the headteacher and staff, whenever they need to discuss issues relating to their children's welfare.

Does the school meet the requirements for registration?

Yes.

School details

Name of school:
DfES ref number:

K-Bis Theatre School
846/6022

Type of school:	Theatre School		
Status:	Independent		
Age range of pupils:	5 to 19 years		
Gender of pupils:	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils):	Boys 12,	Girls 33,	Total 45
Number on roll (part-time pupils):	Boys 0,	Girls 0,	Total 0
Number of boarders:	Boys ,	Girls ,	Total 0
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need:	Boys 0,	Girls 1,	Total 1
Annual fees (day pupils):	£ 3,270 - £5,250 (negotiable)		
Address of school:	K-BIS Theatre School Clermont Hall Cumberland Road Brighton BN1 6SL		
E-mail address:	k-biz@zoom.co.uk		
Telephone number:	01273 566739		
Fax number:	01273 564366		
Headteacher:	Miss M King		
Proprietor:	Miss M King		
Lead Inspector:	Mr Simon Bennett		
Dates of inspection:	9th to 12th February 2004		

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