

Philpots Manor School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher
Social care inspector	Liz Driver

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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, and under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools or residential special schools.

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

Philpots Manor School, which opened in 1956, is a co-educational residential special school for up to 60 pupils aged from seven to 19 years. Situated on the edge of West Hoathly, West Sussex, it follows the social and educational principles of Rudolf Steiner. The aim of the school is that each pupil develops physically, emotionally, academically, spiritually and socially to the highest degrees of which they are able.

At the time of the monitoring inspection, there were 45 pupils on roll, with boys outnumbering girls by three to one. All of the pupils have a statement of special educational needs and approximately three quarters are boarders. Many pupils have had previous negative experiences of school, including sustained periods of non attendance. All have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, and many also have specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The last inspection, carried out in February 2011, was an integrated education and welfare inspection which included the inspection of the effectiveness of boarding provision.

Context of the inspection

In the last inspection, welfare, health and safety and the quality of boarding provision were judged inadequate. This was because safeguarding procedures, including child protection, risk assessments for boarders and security arrangements were not robust enough. The school submitted an action plan in May 2011, which was evaluated on 20 May 2011, and the overall judgement was the action taken, or that proposed by the school, was satisfactory, subject to satisfactory implementation which must be checked. This first integrated monitoring inspection was to evaluate the progress made in meeting the regulations outlined the action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous inspection report judged the quality of education as good and the curriculum outstanding. Provision for welfare, health and safety was inadequate because safeguarding procedures, including security and child protection arrangements, were not robust enough. A detailed action plan was submitted and outcomes from this monitoring inspection show that good progress has been made in the implementation of the action plan. All regulatory requirements, including those for safeguarding, are met.

With regard to remedying child protection and safeguarding weaknesses, the school has made significant changes and amendments to their safeguarding policies, procedures and practices. A satisfactory child protection policy, that has been approved by the local authority safeguarding board, is now in place and it is implemented effectively. Procedures ensure all child protection incidents are recorded and reported to the appropriate authorities. The school has a designated member of staff for child protection who has undergone appropriate training. The designated person is supported by an education coordinator who is included in the school's safeguarding team. As a result, communication with child protection agencies has improved and it is now good. All adults, in education and boarding, have been suitably trained to fulfil their child protection duties. Records relating to child protection, and risk assessments, are suitably organised, well maintained and are regularly monitored by senior staff. Risk assessments for individual pupils, and for the premises and grounds, are thorough. Good individual pupil risk assessments exist and they are reviewed termly. The school has reviewed its monitoring of all records and now has a robust system in place.

Good progress has been made to improve the security. Security arrangements are now satisfactory and all staff and pupils are kept safe and secure. Detailed risk assessments are carried out for all aspects of welfare, health and safety, including security. Procedures are implemented effectively. For example, boarding staff diligently ensure that boarding accommodation is safe and secure. At the time of the last inspection, a risk assessment was not carried out on boarding staff, who worked long hours, to monitor the impact of working additional hours on staff and pupils safety. This weakness has been addressed effectively. Appropriate risk assessments now exist and they are suitably monitored by senior staff.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Steiner Waldorf residential special school		
Date school opened	1956		
Age range of pupils	7–19 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 33	Girls: 12	Total: 45
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of boarders	Boys: 23	Girls: 9	Total: 32
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 33	Girls: 12	Total: 45
Annual fees (day pupils)	£53,550		
Annual fees (boarders)	£53,550		
Address of school	West Hoathly, West Sussex RH19 4PR		
Telephone number	01342 810268		
Email address	linda.churnside@philpotsmanorschool.co.uk		
Education Co-ordinator	Linda Churnside		
Care Co-ordinator	Andrew Duncan		
Proprietor	Philpots Manor School Ltd		