

# Cruckton Hall School

Cruckton, Shrewsbury SY5 8PR

## Overall outcome

**The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection**

Residential provision outcome

**The school does not meet all of the national minimum standards that were checked during this inspection**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 1. Quality of education provided

- Not applicable for this inspection

### Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- Not applicable for this inspection

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

#### *Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b), 8, 8(a)*

- Safeguarding practices meet statutory requirements. Appropriate arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and young people at the school.
- Leaders have ensured that sound arrangements are in place to meet the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State, which are reflected by the school's recently updated safeguarding policy. The headteacher has ensured that all staff are trained and updated with the latest statutory safeguarding guidance. There is a robust system in place to ensure that staff are kept up to date with any changes, concerns or training.
- As a result of the above, these standards continue to be met.

#### *Paragraph 8(b)*

- Appropriate policies are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and young people in the residential part of the school.
- However, appropriate actions to reduce identified risks to pupils and young people are not always taken in the residential part of the school. Leaders agree that more comprehensive advice for the residential care staff will provide better support to promote improved decision-making and risk management.
- As a result of the above, this standard is not met.

#### *Paragraph 14*

- Leaders have ensured that pupils and young people are properly supervised in the school through the appropriate deployment of school staff. As a result, this standard continues to be met.

#### *Paragraphs 16, 16(a), 16(b)*

- Leaders have ensured that an effective risk assessment policy is in place and

appropriate actions are taken to reduce risks identified by the school staff. However, leaders agree that more comprehensive advice for the care staff would provide better support to promote improved decision-making and risk management.

- As this standard relates to the school rather than the residential provision, this standard continues to be met.

#### Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Part 6. Provision of information

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

##### *Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)*

- Leaders actively promote the well-being of pupils and young people in the school.
- However, leaders have not ensured that the strong safeguarding practice delivered by the school staff is always reflected in the residential part of the provision at the school. For example, appropriate actions to reduce identified risks to pupils and young people are not always taken in the residential part of the school. Leaders agree that improvements are needed to ensure that the safeguarding practice in the residential part of the school is as strong as in the educational part of the school.
- As a result of this, these standards are not met.

#### Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

- Not applicable for this inspection

#### Residential provision

Compliance with the national minimum standards for residential special schools that were assessed during this inspection

##### *Standard 6.3*

- An appropriate risk assessment policy is in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and young people in the residential boarding part of the school.

- However, appropriate actions to reduce identified risks to pupils and young people are not always taken. Leaders agree that more comprehensive advice for the residential care staff would provide better support to promote improved decision-making.
- As a result, this standard is not met.

#### *Standard 11*

- Safeguarding arrangements meet statutory requirements. However, appropriate actions to reduce identified risks are not always taken by the residential care staff.
- Leaders have ensured that arrangements are in place to meet the requirements of guidance issued by the Secretary of State, which are reflected by the school's recently updated safeguarding policy. The headteacher has ensured that all staff are trained and updated with the latest statutory safeguarding guidance.
- Overall, this standard is not met.

#### *Standards 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.8, 13.9*

- The effectiveness of the residential part of the school is monitored and action is taken where necessary. Meetings are held at the beginning and end of each day to ensure smooth transitions.
- Leaders and managers are experienced and demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role. Staff say that they are well supported in their roles and that communication systems are effective.
- As a result, these standards continue to be met.

#### *Standard 13.7*

- Leaders ensure that records are maintained carefully. However, not all policies are followed consistently by staff; for example, the 'e-safety' policy states that pupils' and young peoples' internet use will be monitored by staff at all times. Inspectors found evidence that not all internet use is monitored.
- As a result, this standard is not met.

#### *Standards 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, .15.8, 15.9, 15.10*

- The residential staff understand their roles well and are regularly supervised by senior leaders. They know the communication and alert systems, which are in place.
- Staff regularly receive training and updates on a range of topics, including, for example, the latest version of 'Keeping children safe in education'. The number of staff on duty at all times and the arrangements for quickly contacting managers meet the requirements of this standard.
- As a result, these standards continue to be met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements and national minimum standards for residential special schools**

The school does not meet the requirements of the schedule to The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards'), the national minimum standards for residential special schools and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

### **The school does not meet the following independent school standards**

- The proprietor must ensure that arrangements have regard to the national minimum standards for residential special schools (paragraph 8(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role. The proprietor must also ensure that leaders and managers fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards and the national minimum standards for residential special schools are met consistently (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)).

### **The school does not meet the following national minimum standards for residential special schools**

- The school ensures that the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy and appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified (NMS 6.3).
- The school follows and maintains the policies and documents described in Appendix 1 of the national minimum standards for residential special schools (NMS 3.7).
- The school ensures that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at the school and that such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (NMS 11).

## School details

Unique reference number	128619
Social care unique reference number	SC401364
DfE registration number	893/6017
Inspection number	10022736

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

The inspection of residential provision was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for residential special schools.

Type of school	Special school
School status	Independent residential special school
Age range of pupils	8 to 19
Gender of pupils	Boys
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	36
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	10
Number of part-time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	28
Proprietor	Kisimul Group Ltd
Chair	Margaret Hill
Headteacher	Jo Burdon
Annual fees (day pupils)	£91,945
Annual fees (boarders)	£120,156 to £183,150
Telephone number	01743 860206
Website	<a href="http://www.cruckton.com">www.cruckton.com</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:donna.varley-turner@kisimul.co.uk">donna.varley-turner@kisimul.co.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	9–11 June 2015

## Information about this school

- Cruckton Hall School is a residential special school located near Shrewsbury. It was originally registered in 1981 and educates boys aged 8 to 19 years. It is also a registered as a children's home.
- At its last full inspection in June 2015, the school was judged to be inadequate and a number of the independent school regulations were not met. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals to address the failings identified in the inspection report. This was evaluated and accepted by Ofsted in October 2015.
- Ofsted carried out a progress monitoring inspection in January 2016 and an emergency inspection in March 2016. Inspectors did not find any standards which were unmet during these inspections.
- All pupils have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder and associated conditions (ASD), and in particular Asperger syndrome. Many pupils have other diagnoses of special educational needs, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- All pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. Almost all have histories of severely challenging behaviour. Many have not attended school regularly for some time. About a fifth are looked after by different local authorities from across England and Wales.
- The very large majority of pupils are White British. Very few have English as an additional language.
- The school works with a number of alternative providers and off-site specialist facilities, namely Shrewsbury College Group, North Shropshire College, Berrywood Stables and Synchrony Development (equine therapy). Some pupils are accompanied by staff from the school, at least initially, when they attend off-site placements.
- The school receives the pupil premium funding for a small number of pupils who are in the care of a local authority. This funding provides additional support for pupils in local authority care and those known to be eligible for free school meals.
- The school and the residential provision are owned by the Kisimul Group, which also owns two other independent special schools in England. The group employs a number of company managers for different aspects of their schools' work, such as for health and safety, safeguarding and education.
- The current headteacher joined the school in April 2016 to work alongside the previous headteacher before becoming the substantive headteacher in September 2016.
- The school has widened its provision to include post-16 education from September 2016.

## Information about this inspection

- This was a no-notice emergency inspection, commissioned by the Department for Education as a result of concerns about pupils' welfare, health and safety. This aligned inspection was completed with a Social Care Regulatory inspector, who has produced a separate report.
- Inspectors held discussions with the headteacher, registered manager of the residential provision and other senior leaders. Inspectors also met with some of the care staff.
- There were no recent responses to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View.
- In order to check the school's compliance with the independent school standards and the national minimum standards for boarding, inspectors examined policies, records and other documents. These included verifying the checks recorded on the school's single register of the suitability of adults to work with children.

## Inspection team

Stuart Bellworthy, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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