

Tadley Court School

Tadley Common Road, Tadley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG26 3TB

Inspection dates

1 July 2014

Context of the inspection

This inspection was unannounced. It was undertaken 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, which was judged to be satisfactory, subject to satisfactory implementation, when it was submitted. The school was last inspected in November 2013, when it was found to be inadequate overall.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

Welfare, health and safety

The inspection of November 2013 judged that the supervision of some students was not good enough to ensure their safety and that although risks associated with students' behaviour were understood, the actions taken to manage these risks were insufficiently robust. For example, some risk assessments did not evaluate potential risk effectively. While incident records were noted to be diligently kept by staff, they were not monitored well enough. As a result, amendments to students' care and behaviour plans were not routinely made.

Significant improvement has been made to the risk assessment process. All individual student risk assessments have been reviewed and high-risk behaviours are clearly identified. Individualised strategies to safeguard students and reduce risks have been planned and implemented. Information is shared well. Both care and education staff demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the agreed strategies and were observed to apply these in practice. For example, one student, supported by two members of staff, receives pressure therapy on arrival at school each morning to help manage severe anxiety. Strong management oversight now ensures risk assessments are reviewed in light of emerging behaviours and adjustments to individual plans are regular. There is good practice in place which allows students to follow their interests, such as climbing, in a safe way in a controlled environment during their activity time. This reduces the likelihood of inappropriate or dangerous behaviour at other times.

Rigorous and well-understood systems and structures for safeguarding are in place. A safeguarding team, many of whom are highly trained, has been established. These staff provide a point of contact for immediate safeguarding or child protection issues. Education and care staff know precisely who to go to in the event of concerns arising and demonstrate a sound understanding of the difference between adult safeguarding procedures and child protection. Records demonstrate that all staff are trained to a good standard and receive regular updates. The safeguarding team meets weekly to discuss current and new cases and a safeguarding audit has been completed. The local authority

safeguarding team has also reviewed assessments and safeguarding processes. As a result, all safeguarding concerns are now more carefully tracked and key information is promptly shared between relevant parties. These meetings clearly document when cases are closed or when additional professionals become involved.

Key areas of the environment, such as the perimeter fencing, are suitably risk assessed. Recent environmental improvements include changes to the type of fencing as well as raising the height of existing fencing to manage risk. Liberty is not restricted. Personalised risk assessments for students ensure individuals have ready access to the places they need to go to while keeping them safe. For example, some students have electronic fobs allowing them entry into particular buildings, grounds or beyond. These risk assessments are discussed and agreed with students as well as their parents and carers. Students sign a document stating their agreement with the conditions. This process contributes well to their personal development and understanding of keeping safe. Health and safety records indicate that certain staff are trained in risk assessments and that risks and strategies to reduce risks are identified and implemented.

There is a robust approach to keeping students safe in the event of fire. All actions recommended by an independent auditor have been carried out. Personal emergency evacuation plans inform staff of how each student is likely to react to an emergency and how they are to be supported.

The school and residential provision are amply staffed. Observations of handover from care to school, of break times, lunchtimes and evening activities demonstrate that there are enough trained and skilled staff to teach, care, interact and engage with students and to keep them safe. During break times, students were observed choosing from a range of activities including trampolining, listening to music and using the outdoor gym. In all cases staff provided at least one-to-one support. Furthermore, clear contingency arrangements have been made in the event of any staff shortage. Students speak positively of the consistent staff team. They can identify someone they can go to within the school should they have any worries. Students say they feel safe, happy and well-cared for in the school.

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

The school has made good progress and now meets all The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 ('the independent schools standard') and associated requirements.

Inspection team

Hilary Macdonald, Lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Keith Riley	Social Care Regulatory Inspector
Kenneth Smith	Regional Inspection Manager

Information about this school

- Tadley Court is an independent residential special school providing care and education for young people aged between five and 19 years who have autistic spectrum disorders with highly complex behavioural, learning, physiological and psychological difficulties and disabilities. All students have a statement of special educational needs.
- The residential school is owned and managed by Priory Education Services who are part of the Priory Group.
- The school is located in the rural setting of Tadley Common in Hampshire.
- The last welfare inspection took place in February 2013. An integrated inspection of education and welfare took place in November 2013.

School details

Unique reference number	131531
Social care unique reference number	SC0676447
Inspection number	443323
DfE registration number	850/6085
<p>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 amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Type of school	Independent
School status	Independent residential special school
Age range of pupils	5–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	54
Number of part time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	27
Proprietor	Priory Education Services
Headteacher	Phil Jonas
Date of previous school inspection	5 November 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£60,000 – £105,756
Annual fees (boarders)	£122,000 – £180,000
Telephone number	0118 981 7720
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