

Earlscliffe (Sussex Summer Schools Limited)

29 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2NB

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Inspection date

27 September 2022

Context of the inspection

This visit was carried out following complaints made to Ofsted and concerns raised in the student survey. The leadership and management team's response to the national minimum standards raised at the previous inspection was also reviewed.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

There has been an improvement in recruitment processes and recording since the last inspection. A competent and meticulous staff member has undertaken this role, which has resulted in improved systems. All personnel involved with recruitment processes are trained and adhere to safer recruitment principles. The national minimum standard relating to recruitment has now been met.

Fire safety and health and safety responsibilities benefit from a dedicated compliance manager. Improvements in this area are continuing under the compliance manager's oversight. This manager has a good understanding of the complex nature of the large site. All actions are taken in a timely manner. Previous concerns about out-of-date risk assessments in the boarding houses have been addressed. The national minimum standard relating to health and safety responsibilities has now been met.

Leaders and managers have a variety of mechanisms in place to obtain students' views, including the school council, suggestion boxes and feedback being sought directly by house managers and staff. Overall, students spoken to are positive about their boarding experience. Areas of improvement raised by students are already known to the management team and are being addressed. Leaders and managers ensure that important information is discussed in assemblies. However, not all students understand the messages given or the reasons why issues are not being responded to.

Leadership and management roles and responsibilities have been reviewed, which has had a positive impact on the oversight of the boarding houses. The areas covered by the complaint and survey results have been addressed by the senior manager and investigations have taken place when appropriate. There are no ongoing concerns in relation to these. The national minimum standard relating to leadership and management has now been met.

The governor responsible for safeguarding has an important role in listening to the students' views and acting on these. He has a quality assurance and compliance role, which includes supervising the headteacher. School policies do not state actions to take if an allegation or complaint is made against the safeguarding governor. This does not give leaders and managers the necessary guidance should this occur.

The location risk assessment addresses all the key information about the local area. It also includes safety tips and clear guidance for students about keeping safe in the community. It says that pupils should keep staff informed and aware of their whereabouts when leaving the site. This recommendation has been met.

Inspection team

Suzy Lemmy

Lead Social Care Inspector

Peter Jackson

Social Care Inspector

Information about this school

Earlscliffe is an independent school in Folkestone that offers university preparation for students aged from 15 to 19 from all over the world. There are 130 students on the school roll. At the time of the inspection, 119 students were boarding. The head of boarding has been in post for one month and has a relevant qualification as required by the national minimum standards.

School details

Unique reference number	138405
Social care unique reference number	SC469113
DfE registration number	886/6138

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding 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.

Type of school	Boarding school
Number of boarders on roll	130
Gender of boarders	Mixed
Age range of boarders	15 to 19
Headteacher	Joss Williams
Date of previous boarding inspection	5 October 2021
Telephone number	01303253951
Email address	tim.fish@dukeseducation.com

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