

Bournemouth Collegiate School

Inspection report for boarding school

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Date of last inspection	20/11/2007

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

Bournemouth Collegiate School is a co-educational day and boarding independent school. In 2008 United Church Schools Trust took over the running of this school. It is located 200 metres from Bournemouth's beaches with the New Forest and Dorset countryside close by. Boarding is from 11 to 18 years of age. Boarding provision is located on the school site.

Summary

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

This is the key announced inspection as part of the three-year inspection cycle for boarding schools. The inspection focused on the key national minimum standards and assessed the school's compliance with the one recommendation made at the last inspection.

Boarding is a flourishing and popular option for many students. Parents can leave children in the school's care confident that they will be looked after well and that resident staff will protect their welfare. Staff work hard to make the boarding experience an enjoyable one, supervising leisure activities and free time. This is a good school with many outstanding qualities. It is a school that is constantly reviewing policies and practices, and a school that has come a long way since the last inspection. The principal has clear vision for its future and is fully supported by an active governing body. The senior management team is highly effective with a wealth of knowledge and experience to support the staff and children. Children who board receive excellent support from trained and experienced staff to help them achieve progress, both academic and pastoral. Children can expect to receive very good health and food provision. The boarding house accommodation is very good with a new floor opening in September 2011. Relationships between staff and children are excellent. Children feel at ease with staff and name numerous individuals they can talk to if they have a worry or concern. The pastoral care is outstanding. This is a happy school with happy children who enjoy the boarding experience. One recommendation for improvement has been made, relating to consent for first aid.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection carried out in 2007 the school, under different management, was asked to ensure all boarding staff received regular appraisals. This has been put into place and staff commented positively about the process.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Boarders receive a very good standard of health provision from staff who are qualified, trained and experienced. Well organised and effective systems allow all health related information to be shared on a need to know basis, with any necessary intervention put in place. Individual welfare plans are drawn up so staff can meet individual health needs and this results in consistency of care. Clear policies, reviewed regularly, allow staff to work to a professional level in accordance with current legislation. Two experienced and competent qualified nurses work in centre of the school and are fully integrated into the school community. They are also actively involved in the schools personal, social and health education programme across the school. The school does not experience any issues around alcohol or drug misuse and any incidents of smoking are handled swiftly and effectively.

Medication is competently administered mainly by the school nurses. Boarding staff are trained by the qualified nurses to administer medicines outside of school hours. The school nurses monitor all aspects of medication administration very closely, resulting in excellent practice. Consents are in place for the administration of non-prescribed medication and emergency medical treatment. However current forms do not specifically identify consent for the administration of first aid. High numbers of staff are first aid trained and identified throughout the school site. Practices for boarders who are sick are sound, with clear procedures in place to care for them. The school has plans to further develop the medical provision as part of the ongoing extensive development programme. Boarders are confident and happy in seeking the school nurses service and spoke very positively about their experiences.

The food provision is good with boarders receiving a varied and nutritious diet. It is acknowledged by boarders, parents and staff that the food provision has improved significantly over the last year. This is as a result of close working relationships between the school and the external catering contractors, together with consultation with boarders. The cultural food preferences of the high numbers of international students have been actively addressed with a range of different foods available to meet their needs whilst also offering a British menu. The dining room is suitable, although in need of updating, for the numbers of students. Feedback from boarders about the food was variable; in the main they thought breakfast was excellent, lunch good and supper could be better. This was fed back to the school who evidenced their continuing effort to meet students wishes. During the inspection meals were found to be nutritious, varied, and plentiful in quantity. Much fresh food is brought from local producers; including fish bought from suppliers of sustainable sources. The catering department had an environmental health inspection in May 2011 and has addressed the minimal number of recommendations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Overall safeguarding is outstanding, with staff committed to ensuring the protection and safety of boarders at all times. The school has, and implements, a robust policy on child protection that includes response to allegations or suspicions of abuse. This policy is consistent with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and is known to all staff. All staff at all levels receive training on child protection and are competent in following written procedures. Refresher training is undertaken yearly. A senior member of staff is designated to take responsibility for child protection with the principal taking a supportive role. Both are experienced and knowledgeable about child protection issues and communicate well with local child services. All records relating to child protection are kept safely and securely. Senior boarders given positions of responsibility such as prefects are also given training in child protection. Boarders stated they feel safe at the school.

There is a policy in place for searching and reporting any boarder missing from school. Staff know the procedures to take if this occurs. Bullying is not tolerated at the school and any incidents are dealt with swiftly, effectively and in partnership with the head of pastoral care. Boarders' feedback did not highlight any serious concerns around bullying. High levels of staff supervision lessens the risk of incidents occurring. The school's policy, which includes cyber bullying, is provided to all staff, boarders and parents. Recently the school delivered training to staff, parents and boarders on the safe use of the internet. Strict safeguards are in place which allow safe use of the schools computers.

The school has a fair and appropriate policy on behaviour, discipline and the use of punishments that is known to boarders, staff and parents. Standards of student behaviour seen throughout the inspection were exemplary. Staff and students are respectful of each other. Boarders know what is expected of them in relation to behaviour and also the consequences of any poor behaviour. The policy is clear in what is acceptable and unacceptable when staff give sanctions. Incidents of poor behaviour are few. Rewards are given and enjoyed by boarders, who raised no concerns about fairness and understood the house rules.

Parents, boarders and staff all have access to the school's complaints' procedures. The number of complaints are very low, with most being addressed at an early stage. Written records are kept of all serious complaints and concerns. All records are stored safely and securely. The school's policy also includes action to be taken if the complaint is about the principal. Boarders stated they are happy to raise any concern or complaint with staff.

Boarders have suitable privacy, are treated with respect and dignity and had no concerns in this area. All toilet and washing facilities have locks that can be overridden in an emergency. Accommodation is secure with security measures to prevent unauthorised access by the public. There are external close circuit television cameras which provide added protection.

Boarders are further protected by the school's robust recruitment processes. Senior staff have completed a safer recruitment course and ensure all staff are safe to work with children. The school's system for recruiting staff includes all necessary checks, for example: criminal record checks; references and verification; plus checks on the right to work in the UK. All adults who live in the same premises as boarders, but are not employed at the school, also have a criminal record check. Currently there are many building contractors on site and they have also been subject to criminal record checks, plus strict rules as to areas they can access and areas out of bounds.

Health and safety procedures are comprehensive, extremely well organised, and highly effective. The school's policy is thorough and overseen by a highly experienced and suitably qualified member of staff. Regular health and safety reviews are undertaken with areas for improvement highlighted and dealt with as necessary. All maintenance issues are reported to the business manager and dealt with quickly. All gas and electric installations are serviced regularly, with checks for Legionella and asbestos carried out mainly by external contractors. Boarders stated they felt the water temperature in the showers was too hot. Records show very regular testing of water temperatures that have thermostats set at between 41 and 43 degrees centigrade. This is the recommended temperature and therefore acceptable and not deemed dangerously hot.

The current building works have been exceptionally well risk assessed and have not negatively intruded on the boarders' daily lives. Strict and continual monitoring of all areas around the building works has proven effective.

All boarders are very well informed about action to take if there was a fire. Clear fire procedures are supported by fire risk assessments and staff are very well informed about fire plans. Staff receive training relating to fire procedures and carry out very regular fire evacuation drills both during school time and in boarding time. Boarders stated they feel safe in the school and in the boarding house and that staff work hard to keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Enjoying and achieving is an area the school excels in. The pastoral care is of a high standard ensuring all boarders are able to flourish both academically and socially. The support on offer is provided by qualified professionals, including a counsellor, who deliver a sensitive and caring service. Any boarder experiencing difficulties is noticed and support is quickly put in place. The support can be informal from boarding staff, through to the qualified counsellor and school nurses. Boarders highlight a wide range of staff they feel they can talk to if they have a worry or concern.

Boarders do not experience inappropriate discrimination on grounds of gender, disability, race, religion, cultural background or sexual orientation. The current

diverse group of boarders are well integrated with differences of culture embraced and celebrated. There is also a clear commitment to having a diverse staff group. The school is very aware of the need to continue with developing integration further. All school documents demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunities and avoidance of inappropriate discrimination.

Boarders can participate in a very wide range of activities outside of teaching time. The staff continually seek suggestions from boarders and put on activities to suit their wishes. Feedback from boarders highlighted a small percentage who wanted more choice and non compulsory weekend activities. Currently all boarders up to sixth form age are encouraged to participate in organised weekend activities. The school works hard to broaden their involvement in extra-curricular activities and the benefits this brings. There are excellent age appropriate systems in place for boarders leaving and returning safely to the site.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders clearly have a say in the boarding provision and their views are taken seriously. There are numerous discussion groups that provide avenues for boarders to promote their views and opinions both informally and formally, from house meetings to meetings with the catering department. Changes, such as the provision of SKYPE and more fruit available, have been made as a result of boarders input. During the inspection boarders were seen talking to staff openly and with ease. The school carries out a comprehensive annual survey of the boarders which is closely scrutinised by the senior management team and governors, with changes made and development plans put in place as a result. Prefects add to the support provided by the school together with a head girl and boy role. All are very well informed of their roles and responsibilities which are appropriate and not onerous.

There are excellent arrangements for boarders to contact families and friends, which has a different dimension for the many international students. Staff are flexible in their communication with families and fully understand the importance of boarders being able to maintain effective contact. All feedback from boarders about contact was positive. Boarders did state they would like Wi-Fi throughout the boarding house, and this is to be installed from September 2011 when the new boarding house opens.

New boarders receive information about the school and the boarding provision prior to arrival. Boarders stated they receive a friendly welcome into the school and boarding house and spoke highly of the boarding staff in assisting them to settle in quickly. The school and boarding buddy system works very well with very positive feedback.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

The school has a clear and focused commitment to providing excellent boarding facilities in the very near future. Financial investment in the boarding provision is high. The current boarding provision underwent a major refurbishment in the summer of 2010 and has continued to be developed. Ongoing extensive building works will result in a new boarding accommodation floor when it opens in September 2011. At present girls and boys live in the same boarding house with clear boundaries in place; this will change from September 2011 with the opening of the new boarding provision when they will be separate. This new development will enable the school to cater for more boarders.

There is a multi- million pound school development project, to be phased over the next four years. This includes a new boarding house as mentioned above. There are to be extensive upgrades to the main house: new science laboratories; new classrooms; new music centre; a 360 degree panoramic art complex; new changing rooms; extension of the dining room; new sports studio and a new theatre.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The promotion of equality and diversity is outstanding. Numerous examples of integration, education and respect of different cultures were seen throughout this inspection. The current diverse group of boarders are well integrated with differences of culture embraced and celebrated. There is also a clear commitment to having a diverse staff group. No incidents of inequality or anti discriminatory practices were seen or heard during this inspection.

The school provides very clear information to parents and boarders about the principles and practice of boarding life at the school. These can also be located on the school's website and in the annual information booklet, the school's prospectus and boarding newsletters.

This is a school that has very strong leadership with clear vision for the future. Vast changes have been made in the last two years since the school was taken over by United Church Schools Trust (UCST). Growth throughout the school, including boarding, has been rapid. Staff and boarders spoke very positively about the changes that have been made.

The principal is very well supported by a strong senior management team and a group of governors who are fully committed and knowledgeable about all aspects of the school and its management. Staff are very supportive of the senior management team, and the senior management team supportive of its young and vibrant boarding team of staff. As a result boarders are very well supervised by staff who are trained and follow clear policies and practice. The current boarding staff team will be

strengthened and there will be two new heads of boarding from September 2011 to allow for the increase in boarding numbers. Governors have designated roles specific to boarding and visit the boarding houses regularly. They monitor the school closely and check all policies and procedures before they are implemented or following review. This is a flourishing school which has vision and a clear commitment to providing outstanding boarding provision in the very near future; from September 2011.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Compliance with national minimum standards

The school meets all the national minimum standards, with the exception of any listed below. To ensure that the school meets the national minimum standards the school needs to...

- ensure written parental permission has been obtained for the administration of first aid. (NMS 15.13)