

Inspection of Maple House School

546–548 Manchester Road, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 6LN

Inspection dates: 12 to 14 July 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

Does the school meet the independent school standards?

Yes

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils have often experienced trauma and disruption in their lives before they start their education at Maple House School. They benefit from the nurturing and stable environment that leaders provide. Pupils develop strong and trusting relationships with adults in school. Staff use a consistent and calm approach that pupils respond to. Gradually, pupils develop their confidence and self-belief. They enjoy learning again. Pupils feel happy, settled and safe in school.

Pupils learn to work well together. They discover how to respect and listen to different views. Staff support pupils to manage their emotions and behaviour. When pupils fall out, staff help them to resolve their problems, forgive and reflect on their actions. Pupils are confident that leaders would take appropriate action to deal with any incidents of bullying.

Until recently, the curriculum was not ambitious enough to enable pupils to reach their potential. New leaders have set high expectations. They have taken steps to improve the curriculum to ensure that all pupils can achieve well.

A range of therapeutic support is available for pupils to allow them to heal and move on in their lives. Pupils enjoy a range of interesting and fun activities, including trampolining, team games and cooking.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Leaders have put in place a new curriculum which identifies the important knowledge that pupils need to learn. Leaders have considered the steps in learning that pupils should make to ensure that their learning is secure. However, the changes that leaders have made are recent and not embedded. The previous curriculum did not enable pupils to achieve well. They have gaps in their learning in a number of subjects.

When pupils start at the school, teachers make detailed checks on their academic, social, emotional and personal needs. However, teachers sometimes do not use this detailed information to ensure that pupils receive effective support from staff. Teachers do not use these checks well enough to ensure that new pupils' learning builds securely on what they already know.

Leaders have ensured that there is a strong culture of reading in the school. Pupils visit the local library and appreciate taking home their chosen books. Pupils enjoy spending quiet time in the school library, with bean bags and comfy corners to relax in and read. Pupils develop a love of stories, poems and songs. They enjoy reading in the school garden.

Pupils develop positive attitudes to learning. The strong relationships that pupils develop with staff give them a firm foundation to manage their emotions and

behaviour. Staff are quick to notice when a pupil may need support. They intervene swiftly to ensure that there is little disruption caused by any misbehaviour. This means that pupils can get on with their learning. Staff are also adept at identifying pupils who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). They put appropriate support in place for pupils with SEND.

Leaders ensure that pupils access an effective personal development curriculum. Leaders work with a range of professionals to ensure that the personal development curriculum meets pupils' social and emotional needs. Leaders set an expectation for most pupils to develop the confidence and resilience to move on to mainstream or specialist school within one to two years. This ambition is achieved.

Pupils learn tolerance and respect for others through the opportunities that teachers provide for discussion and debate. Pupils learn about different cultures and religions. Staff deepen this understanding through visits to different places of worship. Pupils learn about celebrations of cultural and religious festivals.

Teachers are skilled in supporting pupils' mental health. Pupils know that they have a safe space to open up to their peers and to discuss sensitive subjects such as positive relationships, loneliness and anxiety. Leaders have ensured that the school meets its statutory obligations to implement relationships, health and sex education.

Pupils learn about a wide range of career opportunities. They benefit from impartial careers guidance from a specialist adviser. Staff encourage pupils to believe in themselves and to aim high to achieve their ambitions.

Leaders work with local authorities to ensure that all pupils with an education, health and care plan have an annual review. Leaders ensure that regular review meetings with professionals, parents and carers take place. This means that all stakeholders have an informed picture of pupils' progress.

The proprietor body has put robust systems in place to ensure that the school meets all the independent school standards. They know the school well and have taken appropriate action to improve leadership at the school. The proprietor body has ensured that actions to improve the curriculum have been implemented. New leaders have the knowledge and skills necessary to bring about the required improvements to pupils' learning.

The proprietor body has ensured that the school complies with schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. Leaders have put an appropriate accessibility plan in place, which is available to parents.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders follow all national guidance around safeguarding, including training, policies and procedures. The school's safeguarding policy is available on the website.

All staff are highly vigilant and know all pupils extremely well. Any behaviour or other sign that may indicate a safeguarding or welfare concern is identified quickly. Leaders work closely with other professionals, including the local authority, to ensure that the right support is available for every pupil.

Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe, including when they are online. Pupils have trusted adults that they can go to if they have any worries or concerns.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and proprietor)

- Until recently, the curriculum did not set out with clarity what pupils should learn and when they should learn it. This means that pupils have not achieved as well as they should and have gaps in their learning. Leaders should ensure that the recent improvements made to the curriculum are embedded to ensure that pupils achieve as well as they should.
- Leaders do not ensure that the detailed checks made when pupils start at the school are used well. This means that teachers sometimes do not use this information to provide learning which builds logically on pupils' previous learning. Leaders should ensure that all staff understand how to use this information effectively in order to make sure that pupils' learning builds on what they already know.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the provider and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

School details

| | |
|--|--|
| Unique reference number | 144375 |
| DfE registration number | 888/6070 |
| Local authority | Lancashire |
| Inspection number | 10225747 |
| Type of school | Other independent special school |
| School category | Independent school |
| Age range of pupils | 6 to 14 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 7 |
| Number of part-time pupils | 0 |
| Proprietor | Halliwell Homes |
| Chair | Mathew Hargreaves |
| Executive Headteacher | Michael Hooper |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £29,250 |
| Telephone number | 0161 437 9491 |
| Website | halliwellhomes.co.uk |
| Email address | mike.hooper@halliwellhomes.co.uk |
| Dates of previous inspection | 13 to 15 June 2018 |

Information about this school

- Maple House School is a small independent school which meets the needs of up to 10 male and female pupils. Most pupils have social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
- A new executive headteacher and lead teacher have been appointed since the previous inspection.
- Leaders do not make use of alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

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

The school meets the independent school standards. These are the requirements set out in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the substantive executive headteacher, newly appointed executive headteacher, a director from the proprietor body, the lead teacher and other staff.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English including reading, mathematics and history. For each deep dive, inspectors met with subject leaders, visited a sample of lessons, spoke with teachers, spoke with pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors also spoke with leaders about some other subjects.
- During the inspection, inspectors reviewed a range of documentation, including that in relation to safeguarding and information relating to the independent school standards. They also looked at records of pupils' behaviour and attendance.
- There were no responses to Ofsted Parent View. There were no responses to Ofsted's online questionnaires for staff or pupils. Inspectors had telephone conversations with other professionals who work with the school, including a social worker and the headteacher of the virtual school.

Inspection team

Julie Bather, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Ian Hardman

Her Majesty's Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022