

Expanse Learning Wigan School

Tyrer Avenue, Worsley Mesnes, Wigan WN3 5XE

Inspection date

13 January 2022

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7–7(b), 32(1)(c)

- The proprietor body has ensured that the school's safeguarding policy is suitable and follows the most recent government guidance. The safeguarding policy is published on the school's website.
- Staff receive regular and appropriate safeguarding training and updates on areas such as radicalisation and child sexual exploitation. This means that staff know how to recognise signs of abuse. The safeguarding training that leaders provide includes a consideration of the particular vulnerabilities of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Leaders plan to provide training on the procedures used for dealing with safeguarding issues to new staff, as they start at the school.

Paragraph 11

- There is a written health and safety policy in place. It links to a range of policies covering welfare, health and safety. These policies ensure that the welfare of staff, pupils and visitors is protected. Leaders undertake regular checks to identify any health and safety concerns. They plan to extend these checks to ensure the health and safety of the proposed increased number of pupils.

Paragraph 12

- Appropriate measures are in place to ensure that pupils are kept safe should a fire occur. Staff have training on what to do in this circumstance. Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed throughout the building. Regular fire safety checks of the premises are undertaken, and any risks identified are dealt with swiftly. This process will continue if the number of pupils increases. The proprietor body ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Paragraph 14

- There are plans to increase the number of staff if the material change is granted.

- The existing practice around staffing means that pupils are well supervised. Plans for increased staffing indicate that supervision of pupils is likely to be appropriately organised.

Paragraph 16

- The proprietor body has ensured that there is a written risk assessment policy in place. This provides a suitable framework for protecting pupils from risk. Detailed risk assessments are carried out for a range of activities, for example visits to the community. In addition, leaders have put in place personal risk assessments for each pupil.
- Leaders plan to develop personal risk assessments for any pupils joining the school.
- The proprietor body has ensured that the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met.

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

Paragraphs 18(2)–18(2)(e), 18(3)

- Leaders ensure that the required checks on the suitability of staff to work with pupils are completed. The proprietor body has plans in place to make sure that the required checks on the suitability of new staff to work with pupils are completed.
- The proprietor body has suitably trained staff and systems in place to ensure that safer recruitment procedures can be followed when appointing staff.

Paragraphs 19(2)–19(2)(d)(ii), 19(3)

- Leaders do not employ supply staff at present. They understand the required checks on the suitability of supply staff should they be used in the future.

Paragraphs 20(6)–20(6)(c), 21(1)–21(7)(b)

- The proprietor body has a secure understanding of the required prohibition checks that need to be completed. Consequently, all safeguarding checks have been carried out. Suitable checks have been completed under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 for the leaders of the school.
- The record of checks on current staff is kept as a secure electronic document and is complete.
- The proprietor body has ensured that all the independent standards in this part are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1)–28(2)(b), 29(1)–29(1)(b), 30

- The school building is large enough to accommodate the proposed new maximum number of 45 pupils. There is space in the existing classrooms to meet this increase.
- Toilet facilities are suitable for the proposed increase in the numbers of pupils and staff. Toilets are well maintained. There is an appropriate supply of hot and cold water for handwashing. The hot water is at a suitable temperature and will not pose a scalding risk.

- Leaders have ensured that drinking water is always available for existing pupils. It will be readily available for proposed new pupils.
- On-site showers are provided. The shower facilities are suitable for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.
- There is a medical room that is appropriately equipped. The room has a toilet and a basin with running hot and cold water. It has a bed, with appropriate bedding.
- The proprietor body maintains the school premises to an acceptable standard. The existing policies on fire safety, health and safety and risk assessment are implemented effectively.
- Classrooms and other areas are spacious and have suitable light and ventilation. External lighting is provided to ensure that people can enter and leave the building safely during the hours of darkness.
- The outdoor area consists of a large field and surfaced playground. It is suitable for play and physical education. This will be suitable to accommodate the proposed new pupils.
- The proprietor body has ensured that all the independent standards in this part are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraphs 34(1)–34(1)(c)

- Leaders demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the independent school standards.
- Leaders actively promote the well-being of pupils. They have ensured that the provision in place is suitable for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.
- Leaders have ensured that all the independent school standards in this part are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

School details

Unique reference number	145289
DfE registration number	359/6003
Inspection number	10216549

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Other independent special school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Expanse Group Ltd
Chair	Tony Brown
Headteacher	Ed Hanley
Annual fees (day pupils)	£25,000
Telephone number	01942 877 715
Website	www.expanselarning.co.uk
Email address	hello@expanselarning.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	22 to 24 January 2019

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	11 to 16	11 to 16	11 to 16
Number of pupils on the school roll	31	45	45

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	31	45
Number of part-time pupils	0	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	31	45
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	30	45
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	30	45

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	7	9
Number of part-time teaching staff	1	1
Number of staff in the welfare provision	9	11

Information about this school

- The school received its last standard inspection on 22 to 24 January 2019.
- The school uses four alternative providers, of which three are unregistered.

Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education commissioned Ofsted to carry out this inspection because the proprietor body applied to make a material change to the school's registration. The proprietor body requested an increase in the maximum pupil capacity from 31 to 45.
- The school caters for pupils with a range of special educational needs, including autism spectrum disorder and social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
- This was the school's first material change inspection in respect of this proposed increase in the maximum pupil capacity.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, members of the leadership team and the chief executive officer. She undertook a tour of the school premises. She analysed a wide range of documents, including those relating to safeguarding and matters of health and safety. She spoke with four pupils about safeguarding. In addition, the inspector examined the school's record of pre-employment checks on staff and the proprietor body.

Inspection team

Elizabeth Stevens, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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