

SC030367

Registered provider: Cotswold Chine School

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This independent charitable school is also registered as a children's home. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for a maximum of 42 children. The accommodation for children is provided across nine houses located on or near to the school.

The manager has been registered with Ofsted since May 2017.

Due to Covid-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspection on 12 April 2021.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 November 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 21 January 2020

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
21/01/2020	Full	Requires improvement to be good
19/02/2019	Full	Outstanding
21/02/2018	Interim	Improved effectiveness
26/09/2017	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children receive good-quality, individualised care from a stable staff team that demonstrates commitment to caring for the children. Relationships between staff and children are nurturing, warm and built on mutual respect. Children are relaxed in their home and in the company of their staff. Children feel safe and well cared for.

A strength of this service is the therapeutic support that is available to children. Therapists work on shift, directly with children at home. Therapeutic aims are identified by the lead therapists. Therapy staff work with each child to support their therapeutic objectives as set out in their plans.

Leaders understand the importance of working with families to improve outcomes for children. Family liaison work has become increasingly important to helping children and their parents to develop stability and resilience. This positive work is a strength.

Care planning is good. Every child has a care plan that gives clear direction to staff about how to meet their needs. Current and emerging needs are addressed. Children know what is in their plan. They have their own version of the plan that they keep in their rooms.

Children enjoy the food. Each house has a cook. The cooks create good-quality, healthy, home-cooked meals from scratch. Staff work with children to broaden their palate. The cooks understand the importance of observing protocols around food allergies.

The houses are furnished to a high standard. Each child's bedroom is personalised to their tastes and interests.

Some children have their own pets; one house has a cat and others have had, or plan to have, hamsters and guinea pigs. The benefits of children owning pets are well documented. Animals can be a great source of comfort, as well as teaching children how to care for others.

Parental feedback is mostly positive. A few parents said they would welcome more communication from the staff, especially when a restraint has been used.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

The arrangements to safeguard children are good. Children say they feel safe and protected. Incidents of concern are appropriately passed to safeguarding agencies. Action is taken swiftly and advice from safeguarding professionals is followed. There is a clear audit trail of safeguarding events, including lessons learned.

Behaviour is well managed. Children receive good therapeutic support to help them to develop an insight into their emotional responses. This helps them to understand the impact that their behaviour may have on others, including their families.

Restraint, in the main, is used proportionally and for the least amount of time. Some positive and creative work is taking place to ensure that there is a focus on de-escalation, rather than restraint. The system for recording restraint requires improvement. There must be a clear audit trail that includes the original recording made by the member of staff who was involved in the restraint and any amendments made by senior staff who are overseeing the record. On a positive note, ground holds are not used at this setting and staff are not trained to use these. However, one restraint record implied that staff had been involved in a hold on the ground and, as a result, this was an unauthorised restraint that was not identified by leaders who are overseeing the record.

Bedroom door alarms are used for some but not all children. The use of these alarms is kept under review to ensure they remain necessary and do not become part of day-to-day practice.

Risk assessments are generally of a good quality. They identify vulnerabilities and the strategies to be used to mitigate these. The house dynamic risk assessments requires improvement as these do not contain sufficient information on the risk the existing house group potentially poses to a new child moving in.

Recruitment practices are in line with statutory guidance and therefore protect children from adults who may wish to harm them.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Leaders and managers have a clear vision for the future of the home. They are ambitious for the children and for the staff. This vision is supported by the workforce development plan. Leaders and managers have a good understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement for which they have plans in place.

Staff receive regular good-quality supervision, including clinical supervision. This supports their practice and development. Staff said they feel well supported by leaders and managers.

Leaders and managers place a good deal of importance on staff retention and development. The quality of staff training is high; the team appreciates and recognises this. Staff who show an affinity for working with children are supported to obtain professional qualifications. Many staff have worked here for several years.

It was positive to note that social work students are on placement in this home. This supports the development of new professionals and raises the profile of children's residential care as a key area of social work practice.

The children's forum works well. Children are elected by their housemates to represent their house. Members of the forum are proud of the of the impact they have and their ability to facilitate change.

Feedback from professionals outside of the home is positive. Overall, they feel the home provides children with good-quality care.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— the name of the child; details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure; the date, time and location of the use of the measure; a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used; the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure; within 48 hours of the use of the measure, the registered person, or a person who is authorised by the registered person to do so ("the authorised person")— has spoken to the user about the measure; and has signed the record to confirm it is accurate; and within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record	10 December 2021

confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(b)(i)(ii)(c)) In particular, ensure that there is a clear audit trail that includes the original recording made by the member of staff who was involved in the restraint and any amendments made by senior staff who are overseeing the record. In addition, ensure that unauthorised restraints are not used.	
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Recommendations

- The registered person must ensure that there is consistent good-quality communication between staff and children's parents or carers. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 52, paragraph 10.3)
- The registered person must ensure that when a child is moving into a different house within the provision, the needs and potential risk factors of not only the new child moving into the home but also those already living at the home are assessed to enhance the matching process. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 56, paragraph 11.4)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the 'Social care common inspection framework'. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC030367

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: Cotswold Chine School

Responsible individual: Jason Lukas

Registered manager: Carolyn Cornwall

Inspectors

Wendy Anderson, Social Care Inspector

Justine Hosking, Social Care Inspector

Michelle Oxley, Social Care Regulatory Inspection Manager

Louise Bacon, Social Care Inspector

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