

SC427652

Registered provider: Barnardiston Hall Preparatory School Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private organisation. It provides care for up to three children with moderate to severe learning difficulties and/or autism.

At the time of this inspection, three children were living at the home.

The manager has been in post since 2 June 2025. They have applied to register with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 10 December 2025

Date of last inspection: 16 June 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The current manager has been in post since the last inspection. They are continuing to learn and develop in the management role with the support of another experienced manager from the service.

Children have not moved in or out during this period. The manager is knowledgeable about how they would support children moving into and out of the home. They have been liaising with adult services for one child to plan a suitable move on from the home.

Since the last inspection, the manager has carried out a complete overhaul of the documents and record-keeping systems. The filing system has been reorganised, and all files are now stored on an online cloud. These records are stored securely and are accessible to all other managers in the absence of the registered manager. This system is designed to prevent the loss of case records.

Children's risk assessments are up to date and contain all the relevant information. When incidents occur, consideration is given to whether the risk assessment needs to be updated. All staff are involved in updating children's relevant documents, meaning that all information is known and shared.

Each child has a missing-from-care procedure that is specific to their individual needs. These are stored in an easily accessible file, meaning that this information is available to staff promptly if needed. No children have gone missing since the last inspection. The manager is clear regarding her expectations around children and the missing-from-care procedures.

The home is generally settled, and incidents are rare. When low-level incidents occur, staff respond with empathy and curiosity. Considered responses have prevented incidents from escalating and have kept children safe. When children are unhappy, they are encouraged to discuss what is upsetting them. The staff understand each child's behaviours in relation to what they may be communicating.

For one child, there have been concerns about their safety when away from the home. This child felt comfortable and able to talk to the staff about their concerns. The staff reported these to the manager, who reported them to the social worker. These concerns were investigated. This demonstrates that children feel comfortable raising concerns, staff know how to report them, and the manager knows when to escalate and raise them with the local authority.

Another child has support with understanding healthy routines and boundaries regarding online safety. Staff have balanced the support for this child to develop

healthy routines combined with the tools, understanding and trust to manage these boundaries themselves. This helps to prepare this child for adult life.

Children have continued to build relationships with each other. This has been supported by many enjoyable activities and holidays as a group. Children enjoy after-school clubs, including football, rugby, bowling and go-karting. Children's relationships with each other are positive, and there are very few issues relating to group living.

Children are supported and encouraged to build their independence skills and to be involved in the day-to-day running of the home. Children earn rewards for being involved in household tasks, and they are responsible for cleaning their rooms, changing their bedding and helping with their laundry. Some children enjoy cooking evening meals, and all children participate in the weekly food shop.

All children attend school full time and have exceptional attendance. The children are achieving and succeeding in their education. Daily routines, such as staff reading to children and healthy sleep routines, support and encourage children's learning.

The manager has a good understanding of the situations that need to be notified to Ofsted. There is a system in place to ensure that all relevant changes are notified within the required time frames.

Staff meetings occur weekly. Staff said that this has improved consistency in the care offered to children. Staff are invited to share any concerns and focus on the progress children have made.

Children's meetings have been changed to be more child friendly, less institutional and more inviting. During these meetings, children and staff are encouraged to offer each other compliments and consider each other's strengths. This encourages children to develop kindness and compassion.

The manager has met all the requirements and recommendations from the previous inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/06/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/01/2025	Full	Good
07/06/2021	Full	Good
17/09/2019	Full	Inadequate

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC427652

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Barnardiston Hall Preparatory School Limited

Registered provider address: Greenwood House, Greenwood Court, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7GY

Responsible individual: Keith Boulter

Registered manager: Sancia Wheate

Inspector

Andrea Bounden, Social Care Inspector

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