

Forres Sandle Manor

Inspection report for Boarding School

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Inspector	Brian Mcquoid
Type of inspection	Key

Setting address	Sandle Manor School, Sandleheath, FORDINGBRIDGE, Hampshire, SP6 1NS
Telephone number	01425 653 181
Email	
Registered person	Forres Sandle Manor
Head/Principal	Richard Philip Julian Moore
Nominated person	Richard Philip Julian Moore
Date of last inspection	02/10/2006

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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

Forres Sandle Manor is an independent preparatory school which provides places for boys and girls aged from three to 13 years of age. There is a separate pre-prep facility for children aged three to seven with the main school offering day and boarding places for those from seven to 13. The school is located on the edge of the New Forest on a 35 acre estate with the main school building being a 17th century Manor House. The school has charitable status and is administered by a Board of Governors.

Summary

The overall quality rating is outstanding.

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

Forres Sandle Manor school provides outstanding pastoral care for its boarders within a very child centred environment where they are extremely happy, and where they feel entirely safe. There is a very strong sense of community at the school with boarding a central and integral element. The head provides clear and highly effective leadership and is well supported by a very enthusiastic, caring, and committed staff team. A 'whole school' and inclusive approach to the care of pupils is supported and enabled by excellent communication between staff across the school. The behaviour of pupils is exemplary and very high levels of staffing ensure individual attention can be provided when necessary. Excellent systems provide new boarders with valuable support and those from other countries are soon fully integrated into the school community. Boarding accommodation is of an extremely high standard and provides a very homely and child friendly environment. A wide range of activities is available to boarders. Comprehensive policies and procedures support and promote good practice across the school, and contribute to ensuring pupils are suitably protected from harm.

This inspection was carried out on an announced basis and the school was inspected against all of the key national minimum standards for boarding schools. There are no recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no recommendations arising from the school's previous inspection.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders benefit from excellent provision for health promotion and health care. A comprehensive life skills programme covering health matters is delivered in an age appropriate manner to all pupils, with external speakers brought in to cover some topics. A healthy lifestyle is encouraged throughout the school with valuable information and support from matrons, lots of opportunities for physical exercise, and the promotion of a healthy diet.

A team of experienced and first aid qualified matrons provide 24 hour medical cover 7 days a week during term time. The team is led and overseen by the senior matron, and together they provide a service which is much valued by boarders and their parents. Established systems ensure all health related information is obtained prior to boarders arriving at the school, and all routine and specific health needs are very well addressed thereafter. The school has an excellent relationship with the local surgery, and there is good access to a local dentist and optician. The school doctor holds surgeries at the school on a weekly basis, and also carries out initial medicals on all new boarders. Boarders are also able to see a doctor independently if they so wish. The school commission their doctor to produce an annual report on health provision. Arrangements for the management and administration of medication are extremely well managed and provide suitable safeguards for the welfare of boarders. All medication is stored securely, written parental permission is obtained for administration, and records are meticulously maintained.

Boarders benefit from excellent catering provision. They enjoy meals of a high standard which are nutritious and which provide them with a healthy and balanced diet. There is always a choice at main meals and special dietary needs are well catered for. Catering staff are well trained and provide senior pupils with opportunities to take part in food preparation. There are no outstanding recommendations of the environmental health service.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders benefit from excellent provision at the school for ensuring they are kept safe and protected from harm. The school has a designated child protection liaison officer who is appropriately trained for the role and there are supporting policies and procedures in place. Staff are all trained in child protection and are well aware of what to do and who to go to if they have any concerns. There were no concerns of a child protection nature at the time of the inspection.

The standard of behaviour at the school is exemplary. Pupils are polite and courteous, show consideration and respect for others, and benefit enormously from a positive and caring approach to discipline applied by staff. Boarders have excellent relationships with staff and feel fairly treated by them. There is a strong sense of community at the school, boarders are very supportive of one another, they feel safe and report that incidents of bullying are extremely rare. Excellent systems of

communication across the school provide for close monitoring and the provision of individual support whenever there are any concerns relating to an individual's behaviour.

The school provides boarders and their parents with clear and detailed information about how to make a complaint should they wish to. No formal complaints have ever been received by the school, a reflection of how effectively any concerns are dealt with at an early stage.

There is excellent provision at the school for managing risk and for monitoring matters relating to health and safety. An external specialist carries out health and safety audits twice yearly, including reviewing all written risk assessments and providing reports identifying any action needing to be taken. The school bursar monitors and deals with safety matters very effectively on a daily basis. Fire safety arrangements at the school are excellent. All fire safety checks and tests are carried out and recorded as required, boarders are well aware of the evacuation procedures and these are practised on a regular basis. The school provides a secure physical environment, there is no unsupervised access to boarders, and all reasonable measures have been taken to deter unauthorised access to the school grounds. Staff at the school are recruited in accordance with stringent procedures which provide adequate safeguards for the welfare of pupils.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders benefit from outstanding levels of support being available to them. There are very high staffing levels at all times outside of the school day and individual attention is able to be provided when necessary. Boarders enjoy extremely good relationships with staff and are able to approach a wide range of people with any personal or welfare issues they may have. The staff group is well balanced in terms of gender. There is a personal tutor system which operates very effectively within school, and the team of matrons provide exceedingly good support within the boarding provision. Boarders have good access to the school's independent listener who visits regularly, and whose contact details are provided.

The school is committed to promoting equal opportunities and diversity in all areas. Boarders are not subject to any form of discrimination and there are no identifiable minority groups within the school. Boys and girls feel equally treated and there is no disparity in physical provision relating to age or gender. Those boarders from overseas receive excellent additional support and are fully integrated into the school community. Boarders with special dietary or religious requirements are very well catered for. There is exceedingly good support for pupils with any special educational needs, which is provided in a way where they are not seen as being different to any other pupil. The school has an equal opportunities policy, all pupils cover diversity as part of the life skills programme, and all subject areas have an equal opportunities and diversity action plan.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders at the school feel 'listened to' by staff and there are excellent formal and informal opportunities for them to be able to express their views and opinions on how boarding operates within the school. The school council operates effectively in bringing about change, and there are separate junior and senior boarders meetings held every term. Boarders have excellent relationships with staff and are able to express their views freely and be taken seriously.

There is excellent provision for boarders to be able to maintain contact with their parents and families. Several payphones are available within the boarding provision which are able to be used in private, senior boarders are permitted to have mobile phones, and all boarders have their own e-mail accounts. There is extremely good access to computers for boarders, enabling them to e-mail their parents and families regularly. Parents are consulted and kept informed about any significant welfare issues relating to their child, and are extremely positive about their contact with the school. They are made very welcome when visiting the school.

New boarders to the school receive exceptional support to help them to settle in to life in the boarding community. Appointed shadows introduce themselves to new boarders by letter prior to them arriving at the school, and then provide much valued support for as long as necessary to help someone settle in. The school provide all new boarders with excellent information about the school and how it operates, and in addition all new boarders have appointed mentors who are senior boarders in their final year at the school.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is outstanding.

Boarders benefit from accommodation which is outstanding. All areas within the boarding house are maintained to a very high standard. The décor throughout is bright and colourful, and contributes to providing an environment that is homely, welcoming, and child centred. Boarders enjoy and respect their accommodation. Dormitories are highly personalised, and there are lots of photographs and themed displays throughout. Furnishings are of a high standard, dormitories provide sufficient space and storage, and there is appropriate separation by age and gender. Toilet and washing facilities are suitably private and sufficient in number with both baths and showers provided. Staff accommodation and facilities are suitably separate, and close by to boarders dormitories.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Parents and pupils are provided with excellent information about the school's ethos, it's aims for pupils, and the underlying principles which govern it's day to day operation. The information is comprehensive and up to date, covers boarding

thoroughly, and provides a true reflection of how the school cares for its boarding pupils.

Boarding provision at the school is extremely well organised, with excellent oversight from the head, and very effective monitoring of all matters relating to boarders welfare. There is an established staffing structure which supports and enables a very high standard of pastoral care to be delivered to boarders. Staffing levels are very high, staff are highly committed, they enjoy meaningful relationships with boarders, and contribute exceedingly effectively to providing a caring and homely atmosphere within which boarders are extremely happy.

Staff with boarding responsibilities receive excellent formal and informal support, and there is good provision for staff to undertake further training relevant to boarding practice. Staff meetings take place regularly and there is excellent communication between staff across the school. Comprehensive policies and procedures support and promote good practice across the school, are easily accessible to staff, and are subject to regular review.

The promotion of equality and diversity across the school is outstanding. The school provides an inclusive environment, documentation shows a clear commitment to equal opportunities and this is reflected in practice across the school. Boarders from other countries and those with special educational needs receive excellent support and are fully integrated into the school community. Special dietary and religious requirements are well catered for and all pupils cover diversity as part of a life skills programme. Equal opportunities and diversity action plans are in place for all subject areas across the school.