

Rodenhurst School

Rodenhurst Business Park, Rodenhurst Lane, Rodington, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4QU

Unique reference number (URN): 148556

Progress monitoring inspection report:

2 July 2026

Overall outcome

The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

At its most recent inspection, the school was judged to not meet all of the independent school standards and associated requirements.

The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous inspection.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

When we carry out progress monitoring inspections of independent schools, we report on the school's likely compliance with part 8 of the independent school standards first. Under part 8, the proprietor is required to ensure that the school meets all of the independent school standards consistently. The standard in part 8 is intended to ensure that the quality of leadership and management at the school is sufficient for that purpose.

At the previous inspection, there was no headteacher or acting headteacher in post. As a result, there was significant fragility in the leadership and management of the school. The proprietor had not ensured that those responsible for the leadership and management of the school demonstrated the skills and knowledge to meet the independent school standards (the standards) consistently. There were a number of unmet standards.

Following the last inspection, the Department for Education required the proprietor to submit an action plan. The action plan was judged to be not acceptable.

Since the previous inspection, the proprietor has appointed a new headteacher and associate director of education. These leaders have an appropriate understanding of education in the context of this particular school. Together, the proprietor and new leaders

have developed a strategic plan, which directly addresses the weaknesses found at the last inspection. While leaders have made many improvements to the curriculum, teaching, assessment, risk assessment and safeguarding, most of the standards found to be unmet at the last inspection remain unmet.

The proprietor has not ensured that the standards in this part are met.

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Curriculum

At the previous inspection, the proprietor had not ensured that there was a curriculum policy in place. Teachers chose what to teach ad hoc and there was little oversight of the curriculum.

Leaders have developed a curriculum policy. This policy adequately reflects the needs of the pupils who attend the school. Leaders have also developed accompanying plans, which outline how they will implement the curriculum. Schemes of work plan in detail the social, emotional and relational elements of the curriculum. However, the schemes of work do not yet identify what pupils need to know from the academic curriculum, and when.

Leaders have reviewed how they teach pupils to read. They have rightly identified that all pupils are at different stages and have different needs related to phonics and reading. Leaders also rightly identify that staff need more effective training in the teaching of reading. The school now has the resources needed to teach reading well. Leaders have planned training for staff in the new academic year. Staff are not yet using these resources because they have not been trained to do so.

The proprietor has not ensured that these standards are met.

Teaching

At the previous inspection, the proprietor had not ensured that the curriculum was well planned. As a result, teaching did not lead to pupils making the progress that they are capable of.

Given the remaining weaknesses in curriculum and assessment, teaching does not enable pupils to make good progress. Lessons are not as well planned as they need to be.

The school is not yet using some of the appropriate classroom resources that they have adopted because staff have yet to be trained to use them.

The proprietor has not ensured that these standards are met.

Assessment

At the previous inspection, no assessment framework was in place.

Leaders have designed an appropriate assessment framework. This framework reflects the curriculum policy so that assessment takes consideration of the particular pupils who attend the school and their unique curriculum. The assessment framework enables leaders to track pupils' social, emotional and relational progress and adapt their work in light of these assessments. However, teachers cannot yet fully use the assessment framework to plan teaching because the schemes of work do not contain the detail they need to assess against.

The proprietor has not ensured that these standards are met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Safeguarding

At the previous inspection, there were weaknesses in the school's processes for the vetting of staff. There were also weaknesses in the recording and monitoring of safeguarding concerns.

The school now has clarity over safeguarding cases that remain active and those where no further action is required. The proprietor has recently increased the capacity of staff to work on safeguarding by training an extra designated safeguarding leader. The school has also welcomed the support of the local authority in strengthening its safeguarding procedures. However, these arrangements have not been in place for long enough to see the impact. Safeguarding records do not consistently follow the relevant guidance. Some lack the appropriate detail needed so that senior leaders cannot supervise safeguarding cases.

The proprietor has not ensured that these standards are met.

Risk assessment

At the previous inspection, the proprietor had not ensured at a risk assessment policy and risk assessments were in place.

Leaders have now established a risk assessment policy. They have also undertaken a wide range of risk assessments. These risk assessments are appropriate because they are specific to the school and cover the physical site and building and all of the activities that take place in and around it.

The proprietor has ensured that these standards are met.

The school's accessibility plan

At the previous inspection, the school did not have an accessibility plan. Leaders have developed an appropriate accessibility plan, which outlines how the school will improve access to the premises, curriculum and information.

The proprietor has ensured that this requirement is met.

About this inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under sections 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. Inspectors checked the school's compliance with the independent school standards. These are the requirements set out in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

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Following our renewed inspection framework, all inspections are now led by His Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs) or by Ofsted Inspectors (OIs) who have previously served as HMIs.

This inspection was carried out without notice.

Inspectors spoke with pupils, staff, leaders, the chair of the proprietor board and the local authority during the inspection.

Inspectors also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including the single central record of pre-employment checks and whether the school's safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers. These requirements of the ISS are met.

The preceding inspection was an additional inspection in January 2026. Following that inspection, the Department for Education required the school to complete a statutory action plan. Ofsted evaluated this action plan on 26 March 2026. The Department for Education rejected this action plan.

The previous standard inspection was in May 2024. This was the school's first progress monitoring inspection.

Lead inspector

Dan Owen

His Majesty's Inspector

About this school

Rodenhurst School operates from Rodenhurst Business Park, Rodenhurst Lane, Roddington, Shropshire SY4 4QU.

Rodenhurst School is part of the Family Care Group. The school provides full-time education for pupils aged 6 to 16 years, who have social, emotional and mental health difficulties, trauma, anxiety, autism and associated conditions. All pupils have an education, health and care plan.

The school uses no alternative provision.

The school is registered to admit 15 pupils.

Proprietor body and chair of the proprietor body	Family Care Group, Andrew O'Reilly
Headteacher	Mr Mathew Barnett
Type of school	Other independent special school
Capacity	15
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age on roll	13
Number of part-time pupils of compulsory school age on roll	0
Age range of pupils	6 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Annual fees for day pupils	£48,520 to £96,944
Email address	rodenhurst.school@family-care.co.uk

Annex. Independent school standards

Independent school standards that the school does not meet

Part 1. Quality of education provided

- 2(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if-
 - 2(1)(a) the proprietor ensures that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively; and
 - 2(1)(b) the written policy, plans and schemes of work-
 - 2(1)(b)(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and

- 3 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school-
 - 3(a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;
 - 3(b) fosters in pupils self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves;
 - 3(c) involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;
 - 3(d) shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;
 - 3(e) demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught;
 - 3(f) utilises effectively classroom resources of a good quality, quantity and range;
 - 3(g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress;

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 7 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that-
 - 7(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
 - 7(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- 34(1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school-
 - 34(1)(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
 - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
 - 34(1)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

Independent school standards requirements that the school now meets

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that-

- 16(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and
- 16(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 25 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

Part 6. Provision of information

- 32(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that-
 - 32(1)(c) particulars of the arrangements for meeting the standard contained in paragraph 7 are published on the school's internet website or, where no such website exists, are provided to parents on request;

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