

Cornerstone Academy

Marlfields Primary Academy, Waggs Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4BT

Inspection date

12 January 2023

Overall outcome

The school meets the independent school standards relevant to the material change. The material change has already been implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7, 7(a), 7(b), 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- Leaders have published a detailed and suitable safeguarding policy on the school's website, which has regard to the most recent guidance provided by the government. Leaders are knowledgeable about safeguarding matters and they ensure that staff receive appropriate training regularly. There is a well-organised system to report and record concerns about pupils. Leaders respond to these concerns quickly and provide the help that pupils need. They use the services of outside agencies, such as the local authority's children's social care team, when they need to do so. Leaders understand the processes involved in managing any allegations against members of staff which may arise.

Paragraph 11, 12, 16, 16(a), 16(b)

- Leaders have appropriate policies which explain their approach to managing health and safety, risk assessment and fire safety matters. Leaders make sure that the premises are tidy and well maintained. They carry out regular checks to ensure that there are no potential dangers to health and safety around the school. Risk assessments are suitably detailed. Leaders identify hazards and establish appropriate control measures. Leaders carry out regular inspections of equipment and systems to ensure fire safety.
- Leaders have ensured that all the standards in this part are met if the Department for Education (DfE) approves the material change.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 23(1)–23(1)(b), 24(1)–24(1)(b), 24(2), 25–29(1)(b)

- Leaders previously used the new premises as a second site before they moved from their main site at Marlfields Primary Academy, Waggs Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4BT. These new premises are maintained to a good standard. Leaders have

secured pupils' safety and welfare by keeping the building in good order and minimising the risk of accidents. Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed.

- There are suitable toilet facilities for pupils, which consist of individual toilet cubicles that pupils can lock from the inside. There is an adequate supply of cold water for the toilets. Washing facilities have hot and cold water. The temperature of the hot water is unlikely to cause scalding.
- An area of the school office can be screened off and is used to look after pupils who are unwell. Leaders ensure that this area is readily available when needed. There is a bed and a washbasin with hot and cold water in this room. There is also a lockable toilet cubicle.
- Classrooms and other teaching spaces have light and acoustic conditions appropriate to their purpose.
- There is a labelled source of drinking water in the kitchen area. Pupils have access to drinking water throughout the day. Staff either provide jugs of water in class or accompany pupils to the kitchen when required.
- There are two outdoor areas which are suitable for play and taking part in physical education. One of these areas is grassed and the other is a tarmac surface. They are both well maintained. Leaders ensure that pupils are supervised in these areas at all times.
- There is external lighting so that people may enter and leave the building safely during the hours of darkness.
- Leaders have ensured that all the standards in this part are met if the DfE approves the material change.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(c)

- The members of the proprietor body have a suitable range of experience and training to support their work. They have appropriate systems in place to check that school leaders meet the independent school standards consistently. Members of the proprietor body understand their statutory responsibilities, such as those relating to safeguarding and equality.
- Members of the proprietor body check that school leaders maintain the premises to a good standard effectively. They ensure that school leaders successfully promote pupils' well-being. Leaders have made sure that all the other standards that were inspected are met consistently.
- Leaders have ensured that all the standards in this part are met if the DfE approves the material change.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- Leaders' accessibility plan is suitable. Actions include providing staff with training to

help them to include pupils with disabilities in learning and providing ramps for access to the building.

- Leaders have ensured that this requirement is met if the DfE approves the material change.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

School details

Unique reference number	147899
DfE registration number	895/6017
Inspection number	10266156

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 compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Other independent school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Cornerstone Alternative Education Ltd
Chair	Nicholas Brindle
Headteacher	Damien Sweeney
Annual fees (day pupils)	£9,750 to £11,700
Telephone number	01270 304094
Website	www.cornerstoneap.org
Email address	admin@cornerstoneap.org
Date of previous standard inspection	16 to 18 November 2021

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	5 to 11	Not applicable	Not applicable
Number of pupils on the school roll	12	Not applicable	Not applicable

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Not applicable

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	12	Not applicable
Number of part-time pupils	None	Not applicable
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	12	Not applicable
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	4	Not applicable
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	2	Not applicable

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	8	Not applicable
Number of part-time teaching staff	1	Not applicable
Number of staff in the welfare provision	None	Not applicable

Information about this school

- Cornerstone Academy is an independent school that provides alternative education for pupils who are at risk of exclusion from primary schools across Cheshire East. All pupils are dual registered with the referring primary school. A small number of pupils have an education, health and care plan when they join the school. Pupils who attend the school typically have social, emotional and mental health needs.
- The school's previous standard inspection was conducted from 16 to 18 November 2021.
- Leaders do not make use of any alternative provision.
- Leaders have moved the school to new premises at The Stables, Warmingham Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 4PP, which is where this inspection took place. The proprietor body notified the DfE of this change to the school's registration agreement.

Information about this inspection

- The DfE 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 a change of premises from Marlfields Primary Academy, Waggs Road, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4BT to The Stables, Warmingham Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 4PP. Leaders have already implemented this change. It is unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the educational provision at the school.
- This is the first material change inspection that the school has received in respect of this particular change which the proprietor body has applied to make.
- The inspector spoke with a representative of the proprietor body, the chair of the local support board and the headteacher. He conducted an inspection of the premises. He looked at relevant policies and evaluated the effectiveness of their implementation, including those connected with safeguarding and matters of health, safety and welfare.

Inspection team

Mark Quinn, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Parent View

You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/ofsted.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023