



Material Change Inspection Report

Connie Rothman Learning Centre

January 2024

School's details

School	Connie Rothman Learning Centre		
DfE number	839/6014		
Registered charity number	1171812		
Address	Connie Rothman Learning Centre Millhams Street Christchurch Dorset BH23 1DN		
Telephone number	01202 122922		
Email address	hello@crlt.org.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs Rozanne Parsons		
Chair of governors	Haymo Thiel		
Proprietor	Connie Rothman Learning Trust		
Age range	11 to 19		
Number of pupils on roll	30		
	Seniors	20	Sixth Form 10
Date of inspection	16 January 2024		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Connie Rothman Learning Centre was registered as a school in October 2020. It educates pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The school is a charitable foundation, and its work is overseen by its governing body. All pupils have education, health and care (EHC) plans. These are primarily linked to social, emotional and mental health needs, including autism and anxiety. The school received a standard inspection by Ofsted in October 2021 and a material change inspection in August 2022. Following that inspection, the school moved to the Christchurch Christian Centre.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase the number of pupils from 30 to 45 and to increase the upper age range to 21 to enable completion of courses by older pupils. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 – 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 - 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.2 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school implements its arrangements effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. The school has considered all aspects in relation to the proposed increase in pupil numbers and age range, in particular any safeguarding implications of the inclusion of pupils up to the age of 21. This consideration is sufficient to ensure that all pupils will be appropriately safeguarded. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who is a member of the senior leadership team, oversees safeguarding. The DSL is supported by a deputy and additional members of the safeguarding team who are senior leaders. The DSL and deputy have attended the appropriate level of inter-agency training. Other members of the safeguarding team and the safeguarding governor have also attended training at the same level as the DSL. The DSL liaises effectively with the safeguarding governor to ensure effective oversight of safeguarding procedures, to monitor the implementation of the policy. Together they ensure that an appropriate annual review of safeguarding is undertaken. Leaders ensure that staff have suitable induction in the school's policies and procedures which include a comprehensive staff code of conduct suitable for the centre. Both staff and governors are trained effectively in safeguarding. Staff understand their training in line with the requirements of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023*. They are suitably aware of contextual safeguarding and the specific vulnerabilities of pupils attending the school, child-on-child abuse and the need to respond to all concerns, including low-level concerns.
- 2.6 The school maintains appropriate, confidential records of all child protection concerns. There is appropriate liaison with children's services for guidance and when making referrals. School leaders liaise appropriately with the local authority designated officer (LADO) with regard to any concerns. In liaison with the LADO, it implements appropriate procedures to manage any allegations against adults working with pupils.
- 2.7 The pupils stated that they feel safe at the school and that there are a wide range of staff to whom they can turn if they feel worried or concerned, confident that they will receive a response. Detailed records of safeguarding confirm that appropriate action is taken, when necessary, which reflects their individual needs. Pupils understand how to stay safe online and the school monitors the use of technology appropriately.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The school's provision for health and safety is appropriate. There is a suitable health and safety policy which is implemented effectively by the school ensuring that all relevant laws are complied with.

Records show that testing of utilities is systematically undertaken. The church and the school manage the fabric of the premises between them, clearly dividing the roles. Arrangements for drop off and collection of pupils are safe and appropriate, enabling them to have direct access to the school. The security in the new premises is suitably enhanced to ensure that all pupils are kept safe. Governors monitor health and safety effectively, supporting the school staff when required.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

2.10 The school meets the standard.

2.11 The school has an appropriate policy and procedures for fire safety. The school has had an external company carry out a suitable fire risk assessment. In addition, they have introduced a new fire detection and alarm system to further ensure pupil safety. All staff and pupils are trained in fire evacuation and pupils spoke of their comfort with the arrangements. Regular fire drills are undertaken and recorded. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

2.12 The school meets the standard.

2.13 Pupils at all ages of the school are properly supervised by suitably qualified and trained staff. All pupils have an EHC plan and the ratios of staff to pupils is accordingly very high. Some part-time staff will increase their hours to meet the needs of the increased pupil numbers. Class sizes are usually between one and four and there is often more than one adult in the class. Break and lunch times are suitably supervised to ensure the continued safety of the pupils and arrival and collection procedures are effectively arranged. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

2.14 The school meets the standard.

2.15 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy. Risk assessments identify key areas of risk and suitable steps to be taken to mitigate risks identified, including for safeguarding. This includes assessment of risks associated with the proposed change in age range and increase in the number of pupils. All pupils have individual risk assessments that are derived from their EHC plan. These are updated regularly to ensure that all staff are aware of up-to-date mitigation of risk for each individual pupil. Risk assessments are checked by leaders and monitored appropriately by governors. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]

2.16 The school meets the standards.

2.17 All the required checks on staff, governors and volunteers are carried out and completed before they take up their positions. The premises is shared with the church, and a number of church staff who come into contact with pupils also receive appropriate checks. The school have considered their staffing model and plan to ensure that newly recruited staff are suitable for the higher age range of pupils. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation; medical facilities; maintenance; acoustics; lighting; water supply and outdoor space [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23-29]

2.18 The school meets the standards.

2.19 The leaders and governors ensure the current accommodation is suitable for the school and the pupils, particularly with regard to their additional needs. The classrooms are predominantly upstairs with the main church being used for multiple small group lessons. There is suitable space for dining, teaching and for office space. The school provides suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities as well as appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs. The school has planned effectively to rearrange its current toilet and changing facilities to ensure that those pupils over 16 have separate facilities. The premises have been upgraded to a standard commensurate with sound health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is suitable. The school has appropriate outdoor space for physical education and outdoor play. The school also has access to suitable facilities in a nearby school, predominantly for science and external facilities for physical education and sport activities. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

2.20 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

2.21 The school meets the standard.

2.22 Governance, leadership and management have taken appropriate action to ensure that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the numbers and age range are increased. The management team has recently been restructured including the addition of two new assistant headteachers. This restructuring is suitable to meet the future needs of the school. The school actively promotes the wellbeing of pupils taking into account their specific additional needs and circumstances. There are suitable procedures to monitor that the school meets the requirements of the standards. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers and age range.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Summary of findings

- 3.1 The school's leadership and management have carefully considered the application for an increase in pupil age, designed to allow pupils who have missed part of their former education to complete it at the school. They have also completed suitable planning for an increase in pupil numbers to ensure that they continue to meet the standards.

Recommendation

- 3.2 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its numbers to 45 and to increase the upper age range to 21, be approved as planning across all areas is suitable.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chief executive officer and the safeguarding governor. She visited different areas of the school and talked with a group of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.