

## 3 Dimensions

Chardleigh House, Chardleigh Green, Wadeford, CHARD, Somerset TA20 3AJ

**Inspection date**

4 October 2022

**Overall outcome**

**The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented**

### Main inspection findings

#### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

##### *Paragraph 7, 7(a), 7(b)*

- Leaders have ensured that the school's safeguarding policy and procedures take account of the most recent government guidance and are implemented effectively to keep pupils safe. The safeguarding policy is published on the school's website.
- Staff complete appropriate and in-depth training so that they have the knowledge they need to be able to identify concerns and take swift and appropriate action.
- Staff new to the school complete relevant training linked to safeguarding and pupils' welfare.
- Leaders have ensured that there is a strong culture of safeguarding at the school.

##### *Paragraphs 11, 12*

- Leaders have published a detailed health and safety policy on the school's website. The school's records confirm that leaders undertake routine and detailed premises checks, including electrical appliances and water checks. Concerns identified are acted on quickly.
- The school complies with the fire safety regulations. Fire safety checks are undertaken regularly. Records are completed in detail and confirm that actions are taken promptly following identification of any concerns.

##### *Paragraph 14*

- Leaders have carefully considered the supervision of pupils to meet their needs and to keep them safe during the school day. This work includes consideration of risks relating to taxis arriving on site at the beginning and end of the school day. Plans are in place to manage supervision arrangements if the numbers of pupils on the school site increase.

##### *Paragraph 16*

- The school's risk assessment policy and procedures are detailed and robust. Risk assessments for individual pupils, trips and off-site visits are carefully considered and

take account of identified risks to keep pupils safe at school and when off the school premises.

- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

#### Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

*Paragraphs 17, 18(1)–18(2)(e), 18(3), 19(2)–19(2)(d)(ii), 19(3), 20(6)–20(6)(c), 21(1)–21(7)(b)*

- Leaders are vigilant in conducting all employment checks before staff start work at the school. These checks include identity checks, the right to work in the United Kingdom and an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.
- The school maintains a comprehensive single central record which includes appropriate checks for all staff, governors and leaders that work or visit the school. Appropriate checks have been conducted under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 for the leaders of the school.
- The school does not use supply staff to cover staff absence.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

#### Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraphs 23(1)–28(2)(b), 29(1)–29(1)(b)*

- Leaders have carefully considered the development of the additional premises, known as Chardleigh House, to be used if the proposed increase in pupil numbers is agreed. The building has been redeveloped to meet the requirements of the independent school standards. This building would provide additional classrooms, office space and rooms for use with an increased number of pupils.
- The school premises are clean, well maintained and welcoming for pupils. The school is tidy and decorated appropriately. Classrooms, stairs and corridors are well lit, ventilated and carpeted to ensure good acoustics. The stairs in Chardleigh House have bannisters to use to access the upstairs rooms safely. All classrooms display emergency evacuation procedures in the event of a fire. External lighting is provided to keep pupils and staff safe during hours of darkness.
- Drinking water is freely available to pupils. There are suitable toilet facilities available in Chardleigh House and other parts of the school. Shower facilities are available on the school premises. The water temperature in washrooms is controlled and checked by staff weekly to ensure that pupils cannot scald themselves.
- The school has appropriate outside space for pupils to use to play and be with their friends. This space would accommodate an increase in pupil numbers if agreed. Facilities off site are used for physical education. Leaders ensure that detailed risk assessments are in place when pupils are being educated away from the school premises.
- The school has an appropriate medical room situated in Chardleigh House. This room contains a bed and first-aid equipment and is next to a toilet with handwashing facilities.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

### *Paragraph 34(1)–34(1)(c)*

- Leaders have plans in place to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers to be ready if the proposal is granted.
- Leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role to ensure that the independent standards are met.
- Leaders are vigilant in promoting the welfare, health and safety of pupils.
- Leaders have ensured that the independent standards in this part are likely to be met if the material change is implemented.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

## School details

Unique reference number	134909
DfE registration number	933/6207
Inspection number	10246713

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

Type of school	Other independent special school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Outcomes First Group
Chair	David Leatherbarrow
Headteacher	Caroline Rolfe
Annual fees (day pupils)	£62,061 to £71,815
Telephone number	01460 65611
Website	<a href="http://www.3dimensions.org.uk">www.3dimensions.org.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:caroline@3dimensions.org.uk">caroline@3dimensions.org.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	15 to 18 March 2022

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	7 to 25	7 to 25	7 to 25
Number of pupils on the school roll	24	36	36

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	20	36
Number of part-time pupils	4	0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	24	36
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	24	36
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	24	36

## Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	5	9
Number of part-time teaching staff	0	2
Number of staff in the welfare provision	17	25

## Information about this school

- 3 Dimensions is an independent special school that is registered to provide education for boys and girls with autism spectrum disorder. The school operates on one site near the town of Chard.
- The school is owned by Outcomes First Group (OFG). 3 Dimensions is part of the OFG Options Autism strand.
- All pupils that attend the school have an education, health and care plan.
- The school is currently registered for 16 pupils aged seven to 25 years of age. There are currently 24 pupils on roll. This exceeds the number approved by the Department for Education.
- All pupils are placed at the school by their representative local authorities.
- The school does not use any alternative provision.

## Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education commissioned Ofsted to carry out this inspection because the proprietor applied to make a material change to the school's registration. The proprietor requested an increase in the maximum pupil capacity from 16 to 36.
- This was the school's first material change inspection in respect of this proposed increase in the maximum pupil capacity.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, other senior leaders and the regional director of OFG. She spoke by telephone with the chief operating officer from OFG.
- The inspector undertook a tour of the premises and school site to evaluate the school's suitability to increase pupil numbers. She analysed a wide range of documents and school records, including those relating to safeguarding and welfare, health and safety.
- The inspector spoke with pupils and staff throughout the inspection in relation to safeguarding.

## Inspection team

Catherine Leahy, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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