

Inspection of Brighton and Hove Clinic School

14-18 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4FH

Inspection dates: 14 to 16 May 2024

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

Does the school meet the independent school standards?

Yes

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils feel extremely well supported and cared for at school. When pupils are well enough to continue with their education, staff work very carefully with them, their families and their 'home school' to agree how best to take their learning forward. Most pupils continue to follow their 'home school' curriculum whilst at this school. Expert teaching staff strive to rebuild pupils' confidence and resilience alongside providing highly effective academic teaching and guidance. Consequently, the school has an extremely positive impact on the high academic standards that pupils reach.

Alongside the academic curriculum, the school's personal development programme has a significantly positive impact on pupils' experiences and development. Pupils are very carefully prepared for reintegration into their 'home schools', and for life beyond school. Careers advice and guidance is highly personalised and is adapted in response to pupils' interests and hopes for the future. Pupils value the programme, and the way in which it helps them to understand different routes and pathways into the careers they aspire to.

Enrichment afternoons give pupils opportunities to pursue their interests and to enrich and deepen their learning. The school works sensitively to build pupils' confidence so that they feel able to try new things. This has led, for example, to a greater uptake of 'STEM' (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) activities. Pupils' behaviour is excellent. The school provides highly effective support if any pupil is struggling. Staff manage pupils' attendance and punctuality with sensitivity and care.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The school has a very clear vision to provide pupils with a high-quality education that ensures they either keep up or catch up with their 'home school' curriculum. A small number of pupils are not ready to fully reengage with their education. The school works carefully to develop a highly personalised and appropriate programme for them. Since the last inspection, leaders have increased the number of expert teachers so that teachers are able to provide pupils of all ages, including older pupils, with highly effective teaching across the subjects that they are studying.

The school ensures that all teachers have the expertise they require to successfully support pupils following different curriculums within a single lesson. Pupils learn in small, mixed-age classes. Teachers often meet with individual pupils ahead of lessons to outline their upcoming learning and ensure that they have the knowledge and understanding they need. Pupils appreciate this individualised support. Teachers are very sensitive to pupils' needs and give very careful thought to how to enable pupils to share their views and ideas, even if they are not ready to express these verbally in lessons.

Pupils are exceptionally well-prepared for their next stages of learning. Many return successfully to their 'home school' to continue with their schooling. Older pupils

receive highly effective support so that they can move on to appropriately aspirational and relevant further study. The school have, this year, become an accredited exam centre, which means that where it is in pupils' best interests, they can sit their GCSEs and A levels at the school. This enables pupils to take examinations in a highly supportive environment. Pupils get the academic and emotional support that they need to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The school has redeveloped and strengthened its curriculum for pupils' personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Leaders work carefully with all professionals involved in pupils' care to ensure that the PSHE curriculum is highly responsive to pupils' needs and experiences. The programme precisely links with the school's life skills programme and careers offer.

Pupils explore their own strengths and areas to develop in relation to their employability. They are supported to understand the realities and practicalities of employment and have opportunities to carry out virtual work experience. Through the wider personal development programme, pupils are supported to engage with and contribute to the local community. These opportunities are often linked to pupils' own interests and enable them to apply what they have learned in real-life settings.

Staff at the school are exceptionally well-supported in their roles. They receive a comprehensive induction that ensures they understand the needs of pupils, and the school's approach to education. The school provide ongoing advice and feedback to teaching staff, to ensure that pupils consistently receive an exceptionally strong quality of education. One staff member commented that advice and support from school leaders ensured that they felt 'at the top of their game' when teaching, and able to make sure that every pupil was getting the very best offer.

Leadership and governance are very strong. Together, leaders, and those responsible for governance, ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met. There are clear systems in place to assure the proprietor body that the school is performing well, and that pupils are safe, happy and learning well. The school complies with schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

How can I feed back my views?

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The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

School details

Unique reference number	146036
DfE registration number	846/6026
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10322072
Type of school	Other Independent Special School
School category	Independent Special School
Age range of pupils	11 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	13
Proprietor	Elysium Healthcare Limited
Chair	Kath Murphy
Headteacher	Nicola Beil
Annual fees (day pupils)	£31,200
Telephone number	01273 735897
Website	www.elysiumhealthcare.co.uk/education/schools/brighton-hove-clinic-school
Email address	nbeil@elysiumeducation.co.uk
Dates of previous inspection	13 to 15 July 2021

Information about this school

- Brighton and Hove Clinic School provides full-time education for up to 16 pupils aged 11 to 19. Pupils are all patients at Brighton and Hove Clinic, which is a 16-bed child and adolescent mental health services unit for patients with eating disorders. Pupils join the school roll when they are admitted to the clinic. They usually also remain on roll at their 'home school' for the duration of their stay. Pupils stay at the school for different lengths of time, returning to their home school or moving on to other appropriate education when their treatment ends.
- Pupils all have special educational needs and/or disabilities, linked to their medical diagnosis. All pupils have social, emotional and mental health needs. Some also have other learning needs.
- The school is owned and operated by Elysium Healthcare Limited. Elysium owns and runs four other independent schools, as well as a range of healthcare settings. The head of education, who took up his post in January 2021, provides the proprietor body with oversight of the four schools.
- Staff from Elysium provide governance to the school via a management committee. This incorporates leaders from the school and clinic, the head of education and other leaders within Elysium Healthcare Limited. The chair of the management committee is the director of policy and regulation for Elysium.
- The school does not use any alternative providers.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

The school meets the independent school standards. These are the requirements set out in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.
- This was the second routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- The inspectors met with the headteacher and the deputy headteacher. The lead inspector met with senior staff from Elysium Healthcare Limited, including the chief executive officer and the director of education.
- The inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, mathematics and science. For each deep dive, the inspector held discussions about the curriculum,

visited lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work. Inspectors held discussions about the curriculum for some other subjects, including art and modern foreign languages. Inspectors also held discussions about the personalised curriculum plans for a number of pupils.

- The inspectors considered pupils' behaviour and attitudes throughout the inspection and discussed the school's analysis of pupils' behaviour and attendance with leaders.
- The inspectors considered personal development through all deep dives. They met with leaders to discuss the school's personal development programme, including the curriculum for PSHE. The inspectors talked to pupils about the school's personal development programme.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.

Inspection team

Alice Roberts, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Louise Ling

Ofsted Inspector

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