

David Game College

Inspection report for further education college

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Inspector	Cheryl Carter
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Date of last inspection	2 October 2006

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is an independent college that provides further and higher education, including GCSEs, A Levels and other university entrance examinations. The college is located in Notting Hill Gate, close to the tube station and public transport. The majority of students live at home with their families but the college also provides accommodation in self-catering premises a short distance away from the college. The college does not provide accommodation for students under the age of 16. Students between 16 and 18 live in the residential accommodation provided by the college.

Summary

This was an announced Full Inspection. All key National Minimum Standards were assessed. The college is committed in providing a high quality service to the students accommodated at the college and are continually looking at ways to improve the services it provides. Students speak very highly of the facilities and services available.

The overall quality rating is good.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

Daily health and safety checks are now conducted and recorded. The fire alarm is now tested weekly and recorded and fire drills and evacuations are well recorded. The college no longer uses host families to board young people under 18 years of age.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Resident students at the college benefit from the support they receive in managing their own health in an age-appropriate manner. All are registered with a local General Practitioner (GP) and are supervised by staff trained in first aid. Students who are unwell are able to summon support from the warden and are confident that a doctor's appointments will be arranged and that they will be checked upon regularly. Parents are communicated with appropriately. Individual students are responsible for managing their own medication.

Students are well supported in managing health and personal problems both through the work of the on-site wardens and the additional specialist input from the college counsellor. Students for whom there are specific welfare concerns are identified at an early stage, and an individualised care plan devised to meet their needs.

There is clear guidance for students within the student handbook on the prohibited use of drugs and alcohol and obscene material. The house rules are discussed with the students as part of their induction. The college has a comprehensive internet policy devised to keep students safe and to prevent the viewing of inappropriate material over the internet.

Healthy diets are encouraged and young people stated that they receive support and encouragement from the warden about making healthy choices. All of the young people cater for themselves within the accommodation. The menus at the college offer healthy options.

There are designated staff at the college with the appropriate first aid training and qualification. Parental consent for emergency medical treatment is held on the students' files at the college. Consent from parents for both emergency treatment and household medication is also held at the college. The arrangements for care of an ill student are clearly detailed in the student handbook. The unit now have a sick bay within the college for students that are ill, however, the furnishing of this room is incomplete.

There are only four students between 16 and 18 currently living in college accommodation. Living arrangements for students under 16 years of age is provided by their family and not by the college. It is now the college's policy not to use host families for young people under 18 years. The college employs a warden to oversee this accommodation. The warden is suitably first aid trained and there are systems in place that provide for effective monitoring of students who have specific health needs or where there may be a concern. This includes alerting wardens to check up on students who have not turned up for their first lectures of the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The provision at the college for ensuring students are protected from harm is good. The issue of 'bullying' is addressed with students during their induction week. There are no reported incidents of bullying and none of the questionnaires returned indicated that this was a concern. Students do not consider bullying to be a problem at the college.

There is a member of staff who is responsible for Safeguarding issues for students. Safeguarding training is delivered at a number of levels depending on staff roles, but all receive induction and updates. The staff handbook includes a 'whistle blowing' policy. The staff has access to appropriate supporting policies and are aware of the reporting procedures.

There is a complaints procedure and complaints book which is kept at the residential accommodation. No recent complaints have been received. Students at the college feel that they are able to complain about issues that affect their welfare and there are clear procedures to enable them to do so. Resident students are satisfied that their concerns and opinions are respected, and there are few grounds for complaints as such.

The warden at the home has a very good rapport with the students living in the accommodation. Students are extremely well protected from the risk of fire. The fire safety arrangements at the college appear satisfactory, regular fire drills are carried and checks and tests of fire safety equipment are carried out as required, fire risk assessments are up to date for the residential accommodation, and records in relation to fire safety matters are well maintained. Students are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures. The warden makes a daily check of the building, ensuring fire exits are clear and that the alarm panel is working, as well as other health and safety issues identified in the risk assessment.

Entry to the residential accommodation is by means of the main door. Visitors to the home are monitored by means of closed circuit television (CCTV) in the corridors and the main entrance to the accommodation. Friends can visit the students in the accommodation but must leave by 22:00.

The college have robust policies and procedures for the careful selection and vetting of all staff working at the college. All appropriate checks are in the main being undertaken. All staff have

an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure and the college does not allow any member of staff to have regular contact with students under 18 years of age until this has been received. Visitors to the college are supervised at all times.

Attention is paid to the health and safety of students and staff. Each student has a key to their room, which is normally kept locked. Staff are aware of the guidelines for entering a student's room. Students are happy that their privacy is being appropriately respected at the college.

There is a clear policy on the use of physical restraint, emphasising that this is not to be used as a punitive measure. Observed behaviour, and the comments of the deputy confirm that behavioural standards are generally high.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

A range of activities, usually sports events, are organised for students and information about leisure and recreational venues is available. At the college students have access to a range of Information Technology (IT) equipment and a library. Students indicated, through questionnaires that all activities were a positive part of life at the college. The college also organises activities such as basketball, football and trips, for law students they have the opportunity to attend court and for biology students there is an opportunity to go on fresh water biology field trips. All activities are risk assessed.

The College Counsellor features as an important person to the students and meets all students at the college as part of their induction. There are details of all the people students can contact for support. The college's principles, beliefs and practices are clearly outlined in the college literature. There is an equality and diversity statement within the staff handbook. The college disciplinary procedure also protects against any racial assault or harassment. The college has an area with prayer mats available where students can pray if they wish. The staff work positively to promote independence and follow anti-discriminatory practices.

Staff are experienced in meeting the needs of students from a wide range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. The staff team itself is diverse, with some staff having personal experience of coming to London as an overseas student.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The college is very pro-active in seeking the views of the students. There is a student forum where views are expressed and representation is made to the college management team.

Most of the students at this college are from overseas so parents rely heavily on the information supplied in the college prospectus to inform on their choice in relation to the college and the accommodation. Students are able to maintain private contact with their parents. All students also have their own mobile phones so they are able to make phone calls freely. Students can also have contact with their parents via e-mail. Parents can also access information and school reports via the internet, so they are able to follow their child's progress very closely. Very good contact arrangements are maintained between the students' parents, the teaching staff and the accommodation team. Parents are kept up to date with matters affecting their children and they are always encouraged to maintain contact with the college.

There is an abundance of information given to students on arrival and when leaving the college. There is a handbook for residential students. Questionnaires received from students stated that they all feel involved in monitoring their own progress at college and the planning of their future.

Students commented that the wardens and tutors are very supportive to them and that they get on very well with them. Some students stated that they have total respect for the wardens and tutors and that they can approach any of them at any time. There is a friendly relaxed atmosphere and excellent student and college staff interaction was observed. Staff are aware of student confidentiality and deal with each case on its merit.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is good.

The college accommodation handbook for students clearly outlines accommodation available for students. There is only four students under the age of 18 in residential accommodation provided by the college. All these students live in the same flat. There is two double bedrooms shared by four students, all male. The furnishing in the accommodation is appropriate. Students are able to personalise their rooms. None of the students had any complaints about their accommodation. There are sufficient toilets and washing facilities. The bathrooms were private and lockable.

Students' personal possessions and money are protected. All bedrooms have appropriate locks fitted and students can choose to store their personal items in the safe in the main office. Students are happy with these arrangements. The accommodation is maintained and presented to a good standard. In the questionnaires returned students commented that they are very happy with their accommodation. There is a residential handbook that outlines the services provided and code of conduct. There is adequate heating, lighting and facilities for students to undertake their college work.

The students are able to spend their own money independently. The accommodation is located very close to the shopping centre with a variety of shops that caters for all cultures. Young people have a wide choice of shops to buy foods of their choice.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The promotion of equality and diversity is outstanding. Students are seen in the context of individual need, and support systems are designed to maximise the potential of all. Equality and diversity issues are built into the group tutorial system and enrichment programme, and the prominent role of the lead officer ensures that the issues are fully integrated into strategic planning. Inclusiveness is seen to incorporate not only visible issues such as race or gender, but also attracting the widest possible range of ability levels.

The college has a good range of information that is made available to students and their parents in relation to the welfare, accommodation and policies and procedures provided by the college.

The college keeps individual records relating to relevant health and welfare matters. Individual care and support plans are developed based on the information provided and risk assessments

are completed if needed. All records are well maintained and kept secure. Personal information is treated confidentially and access is restricted on a needs to know basis.

There has been recent changes in how the accommodation and welfare of students is managed. The college no longer provide accommodation for students under 16. These arrangements are the responsibility of parents. The college does not use host families for students under 18. Accommodation for students between 16 and 18 is provided via college accommodation. There are only four students under 18 living in college accommodation.

The college is committed to ensure that the services provided are of a high quality and the management team are continually reviewing the services that are provided. There is clear leadership of the residential provision in the college. There is a manager of the service and a warden living in at the accommodation. The accommodation and welfare of students is managed by the Deputy Head of the college. There is a senior member of staff who is responsible for the direct line management of the manager of the accommodation. The warden commented that they feel very well supported and consulted. All staff have a thorough induction programme and there is a staff disciplinary procedure. The college has policies and procedures in place to safeguard students' welfare.

The college is extremely pro-active in promoting health and safety and risk management. Risk assessments are conducted and are regularly reviewed. Daily health and safety checks are undertaken at the residential accommodation. The students are well supervised during free time. There is information in the accommodation application pack that details the extent at which the college monitors and supervises students. Students are fully aware of the signing in and signing out procedure. There is a missing persons procedure and parents and police are contacted if needed.

All staff have a job description and complete an induction that includes matters relating to child protection. First Aid training is provided. Wardens have appropriate experience and training including training in Health and Safety, Child Protection and First Aid. There is a detailed staff handbook that contains the appropriate policies, procedures and guidance.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that there is appropriate facilities for pupils who become ill while at the college (NMS15)