

Education and residential inspection summary for More House School

Moons Hill, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3AP

Inspection dates: 7 to 9 March 2023

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: Outstanding

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the residential provision is: Outstanding

What is it like to attend this school?

- This is a school where high ambitions underpin every aspect of day-to-day life. Staff do not let the barriers pupils face get in the way of what they teach. Expectations are high. Pupils respond well to the challenges they are set because their needs are understood and the support they receive is highly effective.
- Pupils conduct themselves well here, though recognise that behaviour is not perfect all the time. Pupils told inspectors that they feel safe in school, including from bullying, because staff are quick to act when there are problems. Pupils have a range of special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and staff are skilled when managing heightened anxieties. One pupil said that he had 'learned how to learn' since joining the school, because staff give him good strategies to help.
- One pupil described the school's extra-curricular offer as 'insane'. Inspectors found it extremely rich in variety and high in quality. Sport, technology, music and the arts are valued highly here. The lead inspector enjoyed a performance by the school's big band during the inspection. Pupils love the magic club, run by a professional magician. Others enjoy drama, and are hoping to register for the Edinburgh Fringe this year.

The inspectors **did not make any recommendations** to help the school improve.

The school **meets all of the independent school standards**.

What is it like to stay at this school?

- Staff provide students with care and support which has a transformational impact on their lives. Students talk passionately about 'gigantic' improvements in their personal and social development. Students have frequently had difficult experiences in previous education settings. One student said, 'People didn't understand us before we came here.' Students feel deeply connected to the school, forming close bonds with staff and fellow students. For some students, this is their first experience of creating positive social connections with others.
- Students' progress as a result of their time at this school is excellent. Feedback from parents and professionals is consistently positive about the life-changing progress that students make. One parent said, 'They have transformed not only our child but our whole family.'
- Students experience growth in their confidence and self-esteem, which supports them towards excellent outcomes. The majority of leavers go on to further or higher education and employment. Students are proud of their success and their achievements are celebrated by the whole school community.
- Students benefit immensely from bespoke support which nurtures them, helping them overcome personal challenges or frustrations. From this stable base, students grow socially and academically. Students are enthusiastic about the school. They speak highly of the opportunities and variety of available activities.
- Staff use information and research to develop their practice. Strong multidisciplinary networks around each student help to develop and shape highly personalised care, creating unique strategies and approaches.
- Students have consistent opportunities to voice their feelings, concerns or complaints. They have points of contact across the staff team and use these well to help highlight and resolve the issues that they are facing. The student council is comprised of passionate advocates for their fellow students. They are confident that they can influence decision-making at the school. Students feel empowered and that their voice has meaning and value.
- Students benefit from effective health and well-being support. Staff create clear health plans and support students well with complex issues such as epilepsy, diabetes and anxiety. Staff engage in innovative practice to support students to feel safe and cared for. For example, the school nurse used pets to support students to reduce incidents of self-harm.
- Staff place a clear emphasis on creating emotional stability. Multidisciplinary teams across the school apply consistent strategies and create space for students to feel safe to reflect on their past experiences.

- Staff enjoy and value every student's uniqueness, idiosyncrasies and personality. Staff create a culture that is inclusive and celebrates individual difference. Students say that they can be themselves without fear of stigma.

The school **meets all the national minimum standards** relating to child protection.

The inspectors made **one recommendation** to help the school improve, relating to improving the effectiveness of communication with all parents.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/125403>
- View the full inspection report for the residential provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC013927>



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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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