

# Education and residential inspection summary for The Grange Therapeutic School

15–17 Somerby Road, Knossington, Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 8LY

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Inspection dates: 23 to 25 January 2024

## **Outcome**

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

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

## **What is it like to attend this school?**

- The school lives its motto 'Discover potential, enjoy success, prepare for life'. Relationships between staff and pupils are supportive and purposeful. Pupils are proud of the school. They feel safe and are cared for exceptionally well. Typically, one pupil commented, 'We are looked after, listened to, understood and trusted.'
- The school is generally calm and focused. There is an ethos of mutual respect. Staff help rebuild friendships when there is unkindness between pupils. Pupils learn to manage their feelings and emotions. They successfully learn to regulate their behaviours over time. Many pupils' behaviour, conduct and attendance improve significantly during their time at the school. Pupils are nurtured as individuals. They develop positive attitudes to school and to their learning. Staff develop pupils' talents and interests, through a range of activities, including, for example, through sport, cooking, fishing, building, music and horse riding.
- The school establishes meaningful relationships with the vast majority of parents and carers. Most parents value the school's work. Some recognise the ways the school has positively transformed their children's lives. One parent, echoing the views of many, stated, 'The school and staff are amazing. Staff are committed, dedicated and very knowledgeable around my child's needs.'

The inspectors made **one recommendation** to help the school improve, covering aspects of the quality of education and pupils' behaviour to enable these to be as exceptional as the provision for pupils' personal development.

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

## **What is it like to stay at this school?**

- Children live in a warm, loving home with a strong family feel. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed. Staff make every effort to ensure that each child feels comfortable, showing great warmth and affection towards the children. Staff have supported children to personalise their bedrooms to their individual tastes, increasing their sense of belonging. In both homes, there are areas that are starting to look tired. Senior leaders are putting plans together to enhance the environments.
- Children have strong, secure and trusting relationships with the staff who care for them. The exceptional quality of these relationships is fundamental to the progress children make. One child said, 'It's amazing here. I am really happy. It's the best place I have lived. They are just the best.' This helps children to settle quickly and gain a true sense of belonging.
- The children's own confidence in their abilities has significantly increased. Staff encourage them to safely explore new experiences and continue to develop independence skills. For example, children have been supported to independently dress, go out in the community, self-regulate their emotions and maintain positive relationships. One parent said, 'It has been the best decision of my life him [the parent's child] moving there. I struck the jackpot. He has a future now and is able to live his life.'
- Children's health and emotional well-being are well supported. Staff enrich children's lives through promoting healthy eating, daily exercise and fun activities. Children have positive experiences to look forward to with the staff and others. This further helps to promote good relationships in the homes.
- Children benefit from individualised support that is responsive to their known and emerging needs. Well-thought-out routines are designed to provide predictability, which the children thrive on. Furthermore, these enable children to overcome barriers so that they can participate in everyday life. Underpinned by the team's enabling attitude, children are making tremendous progress in many aspects of their lives.
- Children who access the residential provision have excellent attendance at school. One child who had not accessed any form of education for some time before attending this school is now attending every day. This has been achieved through exceptional collaboration between professionals and parents. This highly successful approach provided a superb opportunity for the child to now succeed in education and improve their overall outcomes.

- The residential, teaching and therapy teams are committed to the children in their care. They all work in partnership and have a seamless approach to ensure that children receive the same child-centred therapeutic intervention from all staff. Overall, this provides children with exceptionally well-coordinated care that seeks to actively support them in all that they do.

The school **meets all the national minimum standards**.

The inspectors made **two recommendations** to help the school improve, covering: reviewing the residential environment to ensure that it is modernised and refreshed; and, implementing a system that supports managers in having an increased oversight of records in the home.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/120330>
- View the full inspection report for the residential provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC001831>



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