

Advice note for a material change inspection of an independent school seeking to open or change existing boarding or residential provision – welfare only

School name	Exeter Mathematics school
DfE registration number	N/K
Unique reference number (URN)	1698
Inspection dates	19 August 2014
Lead inspector:	Christina Maddison

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Information about the inspection

This inspection of boarding/residential provision was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for Accommodation of Students under Eighteen by Further Education Colleges. The standards for Further Education Colleges were used, rather than the standards for Boarding Schools, as all the students accommodated are aged 16 or over.

The school is situated in Exeter city centre. The boarding provision for the school is located in two attached town houses owned by the University of Exeter situated approximately a twenty minute walk from the school. Extra-curricular activities are available at Exeter College of Further Education campus. The school offers weekly term time boarding for up to 11 students aged 16-18 who are gifted mathematicians.

Purpose of the inspection

To ensure the school meets the national minimum standards for the accommodation of students under eighteen by Further Education colleges.

Advice to the Department for Education

The inspection included a tour of the school and boarding provision, discussion with the head teacher, scrutiny of policies and procedures, including safeguarding procedures, risk assessments, statement of boarding principles and practice, staff recruitment files, statement of boarding principles and practice and the students guide to boarding.

The boarding provision of the school is located within walking distance of the school and is operated by the University of Exeter. Health and safety topics such as gas and electrical systems checks and fire safety procedures are managed by the University and are robust. Male and female students are separated by the staff office/sleeping in room and have separate washing/toilet facilities. Accommodation is suitably lit and heated and is well maintained. All students have their own bedroom.

Clear expectations of behaviour are issued to students in a comprehensive students guide. Suitable arrangements are in place to safeguard students including a comprehensive safeguarding policy and procedure and appropriate staff training.

Staff recruitment policies and procedures are robust and evidence only suitable persons are employed in the boarding provision. Suitable numbers of appropriately trained staff are employed in the boarding provision and are backed up by a comprehensive management structure and a school that offers comprehensive pastoral care for boarders.

Compliance with the national minimum standards for the Accommodation of Students under Eighteen by Further education Colleges.

The school is likely to meet all national minimum standards.

Recommendation

Is the material change recommended?

YES

For number of boarders: 11