

Stone Lodge Therapeutic School

Stone Lodge, Rothwell Road, Kettering NN16 8XF

Inspection dates

5 June 2025

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils
Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy in place that has regard to the most recent statutory guidance. This policy is available on the school website.
- The proprietor has ensured that staff receive regular and appropriate safeguarding training. This training is responsive to the needs of the pupils and relevant contextual safeguarding issues. Staff are knowledgeable about safeguarding and follow the school's robust procedures for sharing any concerns.
- The school's actions to safeguard pupils are timely and appropriate. This includes appropriate liaison with external agencies to support pupils' well-being.
- The school has trained several members of staff as designated safeguarding leads. This will ensure that the school has adequate capacity should the material change be approved.
- Pupils rightly say that they feel safe. They share that they have trusted adults with whom they can share concerns should they have any.
- Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe. They can explain their understanding of this, including how to stay safe when online.

Paragraphs 11 and 12

- The school's health and safety policy is comprehensive and complies with relevant legislation. The school, and external professionals as appropriate, carry out checks to ensure the safety of the school site. These checks have been undertaken at regular intervals over time on the school's existing site and have been undertaken since the completion of building work at the proposed site.
- The proprietor has ensured that there is an effective system in place for staff to report any concerns. The governing body and the proprietor have appropriate oversight of the checks that are carried out and the school's response to any identified issues.

- The school's policies and procedures comply with the necessary fire safety regulations. Fire escapes are clearly marked to facilitate evacuation. Alarm systems and extinguishers are tested regularly. The school carries out regular fire drills to ensure that pupils and staff know what to do in case of fire. Appropriate regard has been taken about the implication of admitting more pupils, including updating fire evacuation plans.

Paragraph 14

- The school deploys staff appropriately to ensure pupils' safety and well-being.
- The school has plans to employ additional teachers and support staff should the material change be approved. This includes staff with the appropriate knowledge and skills to cater for pupils' special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).
- The proprietor has expanded the number of leaders at the school to ensure that there is capacity to manage the two school sites, needed to cater for the proposed extra pupils.

Paragraphs 16 to 16(b)

- There is a detailed risk assessment policy in place. The school has written appropriate risk assessment across a wide range of potential risks including those associated with the school premises, individual pupils' needs and travel.
- Risk assessments provide comprehensive detail for staff about potential risks and how to mitigate against them. They rate the risks across each activity and are regularly reviewed. The school updates risk assessments after any new incident or identified risk. There are appropriate adaptations to relevant assessments relating to the proposed growth of the school.
- The school is likely to continue to meet the independent school standards (the standards) checked in these parts if the school receives approval for the implementation of the material change.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Paragraphs 18(2) to 18(2)(e), 18(3), 19(1) to 19(2)(d)(ii), 20(6) to 20(6)(c), 21(1) to 21(3)(b), 21(5) to 21(5)(a)(ii), 21(6)

- The proprietor knows what checks must be undertaken to assure themselves of any new member of staff's suitability to work with pupils. These checks are completed appropriately before new staff begin working at the school.
- The school does not currently use any supply or agency staff and does not plan to do so. However, agency staff have been employed during this academic year and leaders have the understanding they need to undertake, when necessary, the appropriate checks in relation to supply staff.
- The school has undertaken all the necessary checks required for members of the proprietor body.
- The school records all recruitment checks diligently on the school's single central record.

- The school is likely to meet the standards in this part if the school receives approval for the implementation of the material change.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1) to 23(1)(c), 28(1) to 28(2)(b)

- The proposed school premises provide appropriate toilet and shower facilities for the sole use of pupils. To ensure privacy, toilet cubicles can be locked from the inside. The hot water in these facilities does not pose a scalding risk to pupils.
- Pupils have access to clearly marked drinking water at all times.
- The facilities at the new site are sufficient to cater for the number of pupils the school proposes will access the site.

Paragraphs 24(1) to 24(1)(b)

- There is an appropriate medical room on the proposed school site to cater for the short-term care of sick or injured pupils. The room contains a shower and sink. A toilet is nearby.

Paragraph 25 to 27(b)

- The proposed site, following the completion of building work and the installation of specialist equipment in the science and cooking classrooms, for example, is safe and appropriate.
- All areas of the school are well lit and have suitable acoustics. There is sufficient outdoor and emergency lighting.
- The school carries out regular checks on the maintenance of its existing site and has completed initial checks of the proposed site.

Paragraphs 29(1) to 29(1)(b)

- There is an outdoor space behind the school where pupils can take a break and play. The space has been carefully designed, for example, in relation to the fencing used to enclose the space to ensure that pupils are safe and comfortable.
- The school uses a range of local sports and outdoor facilities to ensure that pupils receive a range of physical education opportunities.
- The school is likely to meet the standards in this part if the school receives approval for the implementation of the material change.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1) to 34(1)(c)

- The proprietor has a secure understanding of the standards that were checked as part of this inspection. They have ensured that the school consistently meets these standards.
- The proprietor and school leaders have planned thoughtfully for the proposed expansion of the school's provision. They have given due consideration to the well-

being of existing pupils and ensured that arrangements have been made so that the increase in pupil numbers and addition of the new site will not be detrimental to these pupils.

- All pupils who attend the school have an educational and health care (EHC) plan. The school ensures that the provision pupils receive is appropriate to their needs. Pupils develop the knowledge they need in relation to maintaining their physical and mental health and are well prepared for life beyond school.
- The school is likely to meet the standards in this part if the school receives approval for the implementation of the material change.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The school has an appropriate accessibility policy in place which ensures that the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 are likely to continue to be met if the proposed material change is approved.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

School details

Unique reference number	149665
DfE registration number	940/6001
Inspection number	10378681

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Other independent special school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Rockingham Educational Services Ltd
Chair	Mohammad Damani
Headteacher	Ollie Sharp
Annual fees (day pupils)	£55,000 to £71,000
Telephone number	01536 904277
Website	www.stonelodgetherapeuticschool.co.uk
Email address	office@stonelodgeschool.org
Date of previous standard inspection	4 to 6 June 2024

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	11 to 17	11 to 17	11-17
Number of pupils on the school roll	41	77	77

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	41	77
Number of part-time pupils	5	Up to 77
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	41	77
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	41	77
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	41	77

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	13	23
Number of part-time teaching staff	5	5
Number of staff in the welfare provision	7	9

Information about this school

- Stone Lodge Therapeutic School is an independent special school that provides education for up to 41 pupils aged 11 to 17. There are currently 41 pupils on roll. The school is based at Stone Lodge, Rothwell Road, Kettering NN16 8XF.
- The school caters for pupils with autism and social, emotional and mental health needs. All pupils have an EHC plan.
- The school's most recent inspection took place from 4 to 6 June 2024.
- The school uses two unregistered and one registered alternative provisions.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, to check the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the proposed change to increase the maximum number of pupils that the school is permitted to have on roll to 77, including at a proposed additional site.
- The Department for Education commissioned the inspector to consider whether the relevant requirements in parts 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the independent school standards are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved.
- This was the first material change inspection since the school's previous standard inspection.
- The inspector met with the chair of the proprietor body, the headteacher and other leaders to discuss the proposed material change. He also met with members of staff.
- The inspector also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including pre-employment checks recorded on the school's single central record. He considered a range of documentation in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, fire safety and risk assessment.
- The inspector spoke with some pupils about their experiences at the school.
- The inspector undertook a tour of the school's premises to check their suitability and safety.

Inspection team

Matthew Fearn-Davies, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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