

# Brockwood Park School

Krishnamurti Foundation Trust Ltd, Brockwood Park, Brockwood, Bramdean, ALRESFORD, Hampshire, SO24 0LQ

<b>Inspection dates</b>	11/06/2014 to 13/06/2014	
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
Outcomes for boarders	Outstanding	1
Quality of boarding provision and care	Outstanding	1
Boarders' safety	Good	2
Leadership and management of boarding	Good	2

## Summary of key findings

### The boarding provision is good because

- The school provides an environment for students which is wholly inclusive, and where there is a very strong and very real sense of community. Students and staff of numerous nationalities from across the world live and work alongside each other in an atmosphere which the school accurately describes as being rather like a large multi-cultural family. Students identify strongly with the school: 'It feels like a second home', was a comment from one student'.
- Students thoroughly enjoy their time at Brockwood and gain greatly from the experience. They form meaningful relationships, grow in confidence, develop a sense of shared responsibility, become more independent, and gain a greater understanding of other cultures. Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school and how it benefits their children. 'Exemplary pastoral care', 'has improved his self-confidence tremendously', and 'the first school ever where he has the care he needs', were comments received from three parents during the inspection.
- Students feel totally safe at the school. They are able to relax and feel comfortable within an atmosphere of community where they enjoy highly supportive and beneficial relationships with both fellow students and staff. Safeguarding arrangements are good. Staff are suitably trained, there is good provision for the management of risk, and students are educated about major risks to health. Boarding accommodation is excellent with new provision completed since the previous inspection meaning the majority of students now have single rooms.
- Staffing is a real strength of the school with the great majority of the staff group living on site alongside students. There is a collective sense of responsibility with both students and staff contributing to the very smooth day-to-day running of the school, including cooking, cleaning, and working in the very large kitchen garden. The tutor system works extremely well, providing students with excellent support and ensuring they always have someone they can talk to if they have any problems or concerns. The school's trustees provide effective oversight and there is a clear commitment to the continuing

development and improvement of the provision made for students.

### **Compliance with the national minimum standards for boarding schools**

The school meets the national minimum standards for boarding schools

## Information about this inspection

The inspection was carried out at short notice with inspectors arriving at lunchtime after contacting the school initially at 9am. Inspection activities included meeting with both of the school's co-principals, undertaking a tour of the premises with students, and visiting all three areas providing accommodation. In addition inspectors met with a group of ten students, took lunch with students and staff, met with key staff with responsibility for health care, pastoral support, health and safety, recruitment, and maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. Information was gathered from Parent View, point in time surveys, parents were telephoned, and relevant policies, procedures, and records were scrutinised.

## Inspection team

Brian Mcquoid

Lead social care inspector

David Coulter

Social care inspector

# **Full report**

## **Information about this school**

Brockwood Park School is an independent co-educational boarding school for 80 students located 60 miles southwest of London, a short distance from the town of Petersfield. The school was founded in 1969 by the Indian educational philosopher, J. Krishnamurti, for students aged 14 to 19. The student body is diverse with over 20 nationalities routinely represented. Residential accommodation for students is provided in three distinctly separate areas, one in the main school building and the others very close by.

## **What does the school need to do to improve further?**

- Ensure that student records contain details of all actions taken by the school to address any specific individual needs identified.

## Inspection judgements

### Outcomes for boarders

### Outstanding

Outcomes for students at the school are outstanding. They thoroughly enjoy their time at the school and benefit tremendously from the experience of living in a harmonious multi-cultural community. There is a very strong student affiliation with the school, with one commenting, 'it's like one big family'. Students develop meaningful relationships with fellow students and with staff, within an atmosphere of mutual respect. They grow in confidence, become more independent, and acquire an appreciation and understanding of other cultures as well as a sense of community and shared responsibility. Their behaviour is exemplary, showing consideration and respect for others and being polite and courteous to visitors.

Students contribution to the school community is exceptional. They assist enthusiastically with cooking and all other tasks associated with mealtimes, they keep the school clean and tidy, and also work in the school's very large kitchen garden. These tasks, alongside taking responsibility for their own washing, means students acquire practical life skills while also becoming more independent. An extremely thorough 'spring clean' prior to the end of term was observed taking place during the inspection with students and staff working together for the benefit of the school. Tutor time and daily gatherings of the whole school provide lots of opportunities for students to express their views and they feel that they have a voice within the school. They keep themselves fit and healthy, and describe living in a 'sensitive and caring environment', where they receive exceptional support.

### Quality of boarding provision and care

### Outstanding

The quality of the boarding provision and the care provided for students is outstanding. All students have pastoral tutors who have a responsibility for ensuring their overall well-being and who are the first point of contact for parents wishing to discuss their child. Since the previous inspection new arrangements now mean that tutors accommodation is located directly adjacent to their group of tutees. This arrangement is working extremely well and was commented on positively by students, staff, and parents. 'Exceptional', was how one student described the care provided at the school. Parental responses to Parent View were unanimously positive about how students are looked after, how they enjoy the boarding experience, how it helps their development, and how the boarding and welfare provision is organised and managed effectively.

Close monitoring by tutors and excellent daily communication ensures that any individual student welfare concerns are picked up quickly. On-going support provided within the school is extremely good and where necessary referrals to health professionals take place. All students are registered with the local surgery with whom the school has a very good working relationship. Prospective students stay at the school for a week in order to help them make their mind up about the school and they have a designated 'buddy' both during this period and subsequently when they join the school full time. 'It was wonderful, like a huge extended family', said one prospective student to his parent after completing his week. The school infirmary provides excellent facilities for any students who are unwell and there are good arrangements for managing and administering medication.

Catering arrangements at the school are remarkably good. The school is totally vegetarian using almost wholly organic produce, a significant percentage of which comes from the school's very large organic kitchen garden. A dedicated cook oversees the preparation of meals, however staff and students routinely assist on a rota basis. Meals are of a very high standard and any special dietary needs and allergies are very well catered for. A separate kitchen on site is frequently used by students to cook meals for friends or to make cakes for special occasions. Accommodation at the school is exceptionally good. The majority of students have single rooms, there is suitable

separation by gender, and new eco-friendly provision commissioned since the last inspection now provides very high standard accommodation for 36 students and 9 staff.

The extensive school grounds and facilities provide excellent opportunities for recreational activities, whether it be going for a walk, playing team games, using the gym, or sitting with a group of friends playing music. Students are suitably encouraged to stay healthy and keep fit and they make good use of local leisure centres. Outside speakers visit the school monthly and cover topics such as nutrition, while human development is part of the curriculum. Acquiring new interests and skills is an area of strength at the school. Learning bush-craft, using a recording studio, being part of a theatre group, caring for the environment, gardening, cooking and baking are all examples of this. In addition there are regularly held workshops held outside of classes, including ballroom dancing which was observed during the inspection. Provision for communicating with parents is excellent with email, telephone, and visual communication facilities available to students.

### **Boarders' safety**

**Good**

There is good provision for ensuring the safety of students. The school provides an environment within which students feel totally safe, and where their safety is a priority. The behaviour of students is excellent, they are highly supportive of one another within an atmosphere of inclusivity and bullying is not an issue for them. School agreements signed by students and their parents as part of the admissions process clearly detail the sanctions used by the school. Over time these have been applied very rarely during isolated incidents with records duly kept of the action taken. Pastoral tutors closely monitor the well-being of students, while external speakers and classes make good provision for educating them about issues of safety and the major risks to health such as smoking, drugs, and alcohol. Procedures are in place and widely known should a student go missing; there have been no such incidents since the last full inspection of March 2012. Staff at the school are well trained in safeguarding and have a good understanding of child protection and the procedures to follow should any concerns arise. The Local Authority Designated Officer confirmed that there had been no child protection related events at the school in the 12 months prior to the inspection.

The school premises provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff with good provision made for the management of risk. One example of this is the annual tree survey carried out by a specialist who surveys all of the trees on the school's land to ensure they are safe and to recommend any work required. Arrangements for health and safety are good with designated staff managing matters on a day-to-day basis, and a specialist consultant being employed to carry out audits of all aspects of safety. Written risk assessments are completed and regularly reviewed for the premises and for activities undertaken by students both on and off site. One example seen was for the school camping trip to Dartmoor with students departing during the last day of the inspection. Fire safety provision is good with students well aware of the evacuation procedures which are practiced regularly. Records show that the school is duly carrying out maintenance in order to ensure the environment remains safe for students and staff. Recruitment procedures are being implemented effectively and provide the required measures in order to protect the welfare of students.

### **Leadership and management of boarding**

**Good**

Leadership and management of the school's boarding provision is good. Prospective students and their parents are provided with extremely good information which clearly explains the philosophy underpinning how the school operates and the overall aims and objectives for students. A very informative website contains a video presentation about the school, and another in which students explain why they like being at the school. The school is exclusively boarding and as such

runs very smoothly with well established routines providing a safe and predictable environment for students. Two co-principals work very effectively together, providing efficient management and monitoring of the school, while a body of trustees oversees matters, and is able to hold the school to account. The school's development has seen significant improvements since the previous inspection, the most notable of which has been the completion of remarkable new accommodation which is now housing 36 students and 9 staff.

Staffing arrangements at the school work remarkably well with almost all staff living on site and being deployed very successfully amongst the student body. There are always sufficient staff on duty, and with the school being home to so many there are frequently many more around. A number of mature students at the school also have specific duties and play a valuable role in supporting staff. Provision for the induction and training of staff is good, they receive very good support and there is excellent communication on a daily basis. All policy documents and records meet requirements, however there is room for improvement in the recording of actions taken to address identified individual students needs. Parents hold the school in high regard and comment very positively on the communication they have with the school, saying that their child's tutor is their first point of contact and that they are easily accessible. Open discussion is an integral aspect of how the school operates and students openly express their views and are heard. There have been no complaints received since the previous inspection.

## What inspection judgements mean

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Description</b>
Grade 1	Outstanding	A school which provides an exceptional quality of care and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
Grade 2	Good	A school which provides a high quality of care that exceeds minimum requirements.
Grade 3	Adequate	A school which meets minimum requirements but needs to improve the quality of care it provides.
Grade 4	Inadequate	A school where minimum requirements are not met and the quality of care has serious weaknesses.



## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	116574
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	SC012443
<b>DfE registration number</b>	850/6069

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

<b>Type of school</b>	
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	70
<b>Gender of boarders</b>	Mixed
<b>Age range of boarders</b>	14 to 19
<b>Headteacher</b>	Co-Principals Mr Adrian Sydenham and Dr Gopal Krishnamurthy
<b>Date of previous boarding inspection</b>	14/03/2012
<b>Telephone number</b>	01962 771 744
<b>Email address</b>	admin@brockwood.org.uk

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