

Inspection of Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre

Warden Hill Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 3EF

Inspection dates: 27 and 28 September 2022

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Sixth-form provision **Good**

Previous inspection grade Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Leaders put the welfare of pupils, as well as academic achievement, at the heart of everything they do. As a result, pupils enjoy school. They feel safe. Pupils know that staff listen and take their concerns seriously. Over three quarters of pupils return to the sixth form because of their positive experiences in the main school.

The headteacher has very high expectations for the school. Staff support him in these. There is a strong sense of community for both staff and pupils. Most pupils show respect to each other and to adults. For the few who find it harder to manage their behaviour, there are well-planned systems in place to help them. Bullying is rare. There are pupil anti-bullying ambassadors, who provide immediate support. If there is a need for further action, staff deal with it competently and swiftly.

Staff provide numerous extra-curricular activities before and after school, both sporting and cultural. These are popular with pupils. Leaders have started to track the uptake of these clubs to make sure that disadvantaged pupils can attend if they wish to.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

Trustees provide appropriate challenge and support to school leaders. The headteacher has managed several changes to the school effectively. He has made sure that staff well-being, as well as curriculum knowledge, are paramount. As a result, he is leading a harmonious school. Staff echo the respect and care that the headteacher shows. This feeds into pupils' behaviour and attitudes. Pupils are ready for learning and engage well with teachers and other adults.

The school curriculum is ambitious. It provides a broad educational platform from which pupils can excel in subjects and aspects of their wider, cultural needs. Leaders keep it regularly under review, so that pupils' knowledge prepares them for the next stage in their education. Most subjects have a well-designed curriculum. This allows pupils to learn key concepts at the right time. However, in a few subjects, leaders need a closer focus on the key concepts that pupils need to know, and when. In these subjects, pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils, are not remembering key facts over time. Equally, in some subjects, teachers are not adapting the curriculum well enough for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Over the last couple of years, the proportion of pupils in key stage 4 who study the suite of subjects that make up the English baccalaureate has risen sharply. Changes to the way pupils engage with a language has helped with this. More pupils continue to study a modern foreign language for longer and some attend clubs which lead to a language qualification.

Reading for pleasure is a priority within the school. Many pupils choose to read widely and avidly. There are some subject leaders who have added suitable texts to

the curriculum. These enhance pupils' knowledge of subject-specific vocabulary. There are helpful transition units for pupils who stay on to the school sixth form after Year 11. These provide pupils with valuable reading material, which prepares them well for sixth-form study.

There are a small number of pupils who join the school who find reading difficult. Leaders provide these pupils with extra support, but it is too soon to see the impact of this on pupils' ability to read fluently.

Leaders promote pupils' personal development successfully. They provide an inclusive environment where tolerance pervades. Pupils, from Years 7 to 13, develop a strong understanding of healthy relationships through appropriate relationship and sex education. The religious education curriculum enables pupils to understand the main world religions. In addition, the subject provides them with a cultural literacy, which develops their critical understanding of key moral issues, such as human rights.

Pupils receive careers information, education, advice and guidance from Year 7 onwards. The school meets the requirements of the Baker Clause. Pupils know and understand potential career paths. The school holds an annual careers fair with representatives from a range of institutions and companies, local, national and international.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The designated safeguarding lead is vigilant in her duties and protects pupils. Staff receive regular and up-to-date training. They know how to identify and report any concerns about pupils who may be vulnerable. Leaders make sure that external support is provided at the right level to keep pupils safe.

Recruitment checks are undertaken thoroughly.

The school has suitable policies in place to raise awareness among staff and parents about the dangers of sexual harassment, online sexual abuse and sexual violence.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Some subject leaders do not consider carefully enough the crucial concepts needed to deepen pupils' knowledge. Therefore, the curriculum does not always build well enough on pupils' prior knowledge. Leaders need a clearer focus on the key content of the curriculum to support pupils to remember more over time.

- Some pupils are not able to read fluently. This hinders their ability to follow the full curriculum. Leaders need to ensure that a suitable phonics scheme is put in place to support all pupils to read accurately and confidently.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	136725
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10210957
Type of school	Secondary Comprehensive
School category	Academy converter
Age range of pupils	11 to 18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in sixth-form provision	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	1707
Of which, number on roll in the sixth form	341
Appropriate authority	Board of trustees
Chair of trust	Susie Dawson
Headteacher	Steven Jefferies
Website	http://www.bournside.gloucs.sch.uk/
Date of previous inspection	27 September 2016, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- The headteacher was appointed in September 2020.
- The school uses three registered alternative providers.
- The school meets the requirements of the Baker Clause, which provides pupils in Years 8 to 13 with information about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the senior leaders, trustees, the special educational needs coordinator and the head of sixth form. The lead inspector had a telephone call with the school improvement partner.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, mathematics, modern foreign languages, geography and business studies and economics. For each deep dive, inspectors met with subject leaders, looked at curriculum plans, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.
- The lead inspector checked the recruitment processes and spoke with the safeguarding leaders. Inspectors spoke with teachers, staff and pupils to gauge their understanding of safeguarding and keeping safe.
- Inspectors looked at the responses to Ofsted's survey, Parent View, and staff and pupil questionnaires.

Inspection team

Kathy Maddocks, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Tonya Hill	Ofsted Inspector
Frances Bywater	His Majesty's Inspector
Rob Coles	Ofsted Inspector
John Weeds	Ofsted Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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