

Inspection of Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst

Cooks Lane, Solihull, Birmingham B37 6NU

Inspection dates: 10 and 11 January 2023

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Sixth-form provision

Good

Previous inspection grade

Not previously inspected under section 5
of the Education Act 2005

What is it like to attend this school?

Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst is a school where poor behaviour disrupts learning. Leaders have not taken effective steps to secure positive behaviour from pupils. Staff do not apply the behaviour policy consistently and pupils frequently ignore the staff's instructions. Behaviour at social times is chaotic and disorderly. Some pupils show a lack of respect to their peers and to staff. Pupils expressed to inspectors that they were generally unhappy at school.

Many teachers do not structure lessons, so that pupils can learn effectively. Often, pupils do not understand the work. This means that many pupils do not progress as well as they could. In many lessons, staff ignore disruptive behaviour. This leads to disorder in the classroom. Many pupils often lack motivation and have negative attitudes to learning.

Pupils are encouraged to report bullying, but many pupils do not do this because they feel it will worsen the situation. These pupils also have little confidence in staff to deal with issues that arise. Leaders acknowledge there is more work to be done.

It is a different picture in the sixth form. Here, the curriculum is delivered well. Students are passionate about their learning and have positive behaviours and attitudes to learning. Students are well prepared for their next steps.

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

Leaders have planned a detailed curriculum that sets out the knowledge that pupils are expected to know. Despite this, pupils do not have a positive experience in lessons. Typically, pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), experience a disconnected series of lessons that do not build their knowledge. Pupils' work indicates that they have been receiving a poor education over a long period of time. This is because leaders have not ensured that teachers know how to teach their subjects well enough. All of this means that pupils struggle to grasp the basics of each subject. This results in them not making the progress they should over time.

Too often, teachers do not check what pupils have learned before they move on to new learning. When misconceptions or gaps in knowledge arise, these are not always addressed. Pupils do not ask for help when they need it because they do not think they will get the necessary support. This means that gaps in knowledge widen, and pupils do not understand the work.

In the sixth form, reading is prioritised well and students enjoy reading. In the rest of the school, all pupils have opportunities to read every morning. In these sessions, pupils read age-appropriate texts and are developing confidence to read aloud. However, pupils who have fallen behind with their reading do not receive the help

they need to catch up. This is because leaders are not aware of what the pupils' specific needs are. This hinders these pupils from becoming fluent readers.

Behaviour is a real weakness. Leaders have not ensured that staff consistently apply the school's behaviour policy. As a result, some pupils feel they are treated unfairly. Many lessons are disrupted by poor behaviour, so pupils cannot learn. Although leaders have made amendments to the behaviour policy, the impact of this has been too slow.

The number of sanctions given to pupils is rising. This includes suspensions. The number of pupils who are suspended repeatedly is also rising. It is unclear what impact these sanctions are having on improving pupils' behaviour.

The curriculum for relationship and sex education, and personal, social and health education is not sequenced well. As a result, pupils cannot make connections between learning. If pupils are absent, they miss this education and there are no plans in place to help them to catch up.

Pupils receive a well-planned careers programme that is delivered during tutor time. Pupils have the chance to meet over fifty employers at the school's careers fair. Pupils in Year 10 and the sixth form benefit from virtual work experience. This opportunity allows pupils to complete virtual work-related tasks to find out which careers are suited to them. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of education, employment, or training. The number of pupils participating in extra-curricular activities is high and this includes pupils with SEND.

Leaders and those responsible for governance have taken a range of steps to improve the school. However, these changes made have been implemented too slowly. Those responsible for governance have not checked leaders' work well enough.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff are trained and are given regular updates on safeguarding. Staff know how to use the school's system to report a concern. Safeguarding leaders have knowledge of the wider risks that pupils face and inform staff accordingly. Where necessary, leaders make appropriate referrals to children's services. The school effectively manages safer recruitment.

Although pupils know where to get help if they need it, they do not always have the confidence to report their concerns. The designated safeguarding lead is working with pupils to give them the support and confidence they need to report issues.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- The improvements that leaders and those responsible for governance have made have been implemented too slowly. This has resulted in pupils making poor progress in their learning as well as staff not managing pupils' behaviour effectively. Those responsible for governance should hold leaders to account and deal with the weaknesses across the school systematically and with urgency.
- The curriculum across many subjects is implemented weakly. This means that pupils are not receiving a good quality of education so do not make the progress they should. Leaders should ensure that lessons are well structured and that teachers have the subject knowledge they need to teach the curriculum as intended.
- Too many lessons are disrupted by poor behaviour. This means that classrooms are too often not a place where pupils can learn. Leaders should ensure that all staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and of what they can achieve, are helped to develop the skills they need to manage behaviour effectively and understand and consistently follow the school's behaviour policy.
- Pupils show a lack of respect for each other and staff, and frequently ignore requests from staff. This results in poor behaviour across the school. Leaders should ensure that pupils are taught what is expected of them and are challenged and supported to develop the necessary respect and self-discipline.
- Some pupils think that staff do not always respond appropriately when they have concerns about bullying. Others feel that reporting bullying will worsen the situation for them or others. This means that some pupils do not report bullying incidents. Leaders need to ensure that pupils have the confidence to report bullying to them or to staff and are given clear feedback about actions that have been taken as a result.

Having considered the evidence, we strongly recommend that leaders and those responsible for governance do not seek to appoint early career teachers.

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	146379
Local authority	Solihull
Inspection number	10256810
Type of school	Secondary comprehensive
School category	Academy sponsor-led
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	1272
Of which, number on roll in the sixth form	156
Appropriate authority	Board of trustees
Chair of trust	Dr William Rock
Principal	Nicola Crehan
Website	www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected

Information about this school

- The Tudor Grange Academy Kinghurst opened in September 2018.
- The school meets the requirements of the Baker Clause. This means that pupils in Years 8 to 11 receive information about the full range of education and training options open to them. This includes opportunities for a range of education and training providers to speak to pupils about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- The school uses four registered alternative providers.

Information about this inspection

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

In accordance with section 44(1) of the Education Act 2005, His Majesty's Chief Inspector is of the opinion that this school requires special measures because it is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school.

- Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- During the inspection, inspectors held discussions with the principal, other senior and middle leaders, the special educational needs coordinator, attendance lead, designated safeguarding lead, careers lead, sixth-form lead, early career teachers, chair of governors and the chair of trustees.
- Inspectors held discussions with those responsible for governance.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in English, geography, mathematics, languages, and science. For each of these subjects, inspectors met with subject leaders, carried out visits to lessons, spoke to pupils and looked at some of their work, and spoke to subject teachers. Inspectors reviewed the school's tutor programme. Inspectors also visited tutor time and reading at the start of the day.
- Inspectors met with members of staff and spoke to pupils formally and informally at various points in the inspection. Inspectors took account of responses to the staff survey, as well as Ofsted Parent View.
- Inspectors looked at records and spoke to staff in relation to behaviour, bullying, attendance, and safeguarding.
- Inspectors reviewed safeguarding arrangements by checking the school's approach to staff recruitment, scrutinising policy documents and meeting with the designated safeguarding leader.

Inspection team

Sultanat Yunus, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
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Antony Edkins	Ofsted Inspector
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