Cambian Dunbroch School

Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7LF

Unique reference number (URN): 149442

Progress monitoring inspection report:	24 September 2026

Overall outcome	The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

At its most recent inspection, the school was judged to not meet all of the independent school standards (the ISS) and associated requirements.

The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the ISS and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous inspection.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

When we carry out progress monitoring inspections of independent schools, we report on the school's likely compliance with part 8 of the ISS first. Under part 8, the proprietor is required to ensure that the school meets all of the ISS consistently. The standard in part 8 is intended to ensure that the quality of leadership and management at the school is sufficient for that purpose.

At the previous emergency inspection, the proprietor did not ensure that the ISS were met. The proprietor did not ensure that the school fulfilled its statutory safeguarding responsibilities. The school did not have a robust safeguarding culture. The school's systems and use of information did not keep pupils safe as they did not ensure that essential safeguarding and welfare information was received, recorded and acted on. Leaders concerns about pupils' care and health support were not communicated with other professionals and statutory partners and professionals as set out in statutory guidance. The proprietor did not ensure that the ISS were consistently met over time.

In the school's action plan, leaders proposed to provide training to leaders on the standards, leadership and management, quality assurance and school development planning and evaluation. Leaders proposed to strengthen governance and oversight

through termly meetings and peer-to-peer input. They intended to audit termly leadership and safeguarding, review pupil information systems and establish clear communication protocols for sharing safeguarding and welfare concerns with external professionals.

The proprietor has taken steps that have improved the culture of safeguarding at Cambian Dunbroch. Staff, including school leaders, have received robust training on how to record and report concerns, and how and when to raise these with external professionals. Further training is planned for senior leaders. The proprietor has shared best practice around safeguarding within the group. For instance, leaders are in the process of using this to improve risk assessments. School leaders, school staff and care home staff meet regularly and share detailed information with each other about pupils' wellbeing and behaviours. This means that school staff have a better understanding of the issues facing pupils out of school. They better know the actions they need to carry out to meet the needs of pupils

In recent months, governance and oversight have been strengthened. Processes of self-evaluation are now more robust. School leaders provide regular updates to the proprietor and governors. New, experienced governors have been appointed. Governors and leaders have begun to visit the school more often to check the quality of its work and to gauge its impact. At regular half termly meetings, and as part of audits, the proprietor checks safeguarding records and speak to pupils and staff. They ensure that any issues and concerns are followed up, and that subsequent communication with external professionals is now timely and effective, in line with policies and procedures.

Leaders acknowledge that some systems and processes are new, and will take time to embed. For instance, work is underway to ensure that risk assessments are clear, precise, and regularly updated.

The ISS in this part are not met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Safeguarding

At the previous emergency inspection, the proprietor did not ensure ISS were met. They had not developed sufficiently robust systems to ensure that safeguarding arrangements remain consistently effective. Essential safeguarding and welfare information was not always received, recorded and acted on.

In the school's action plan, the proprietor proposed to ensure that safeguarding records contained appropriate information. They proposed to refresh safeguarding leads' knowledge and to hold weekly safeguarding review meetings to audit concerns and challenge decision-making. The proprietor proposed to complete half-termly safeguarding audits and sampling of records, and to strengthen the process for escalating safeguarding concerns.

The proprietor has provided further training for staff and leaders on identifying, recording and reporting concerns. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They know pupils well and care for them. The proprietor has strengthened systems to record and share information between the care homes, the school and external professionals. School leaders are more confident in challenging and raising concerns. Weekly safeguarding review meetings, and half termly audits take place. Key staff attend these. Records are shared and used promptly to ensure pupils receive support. The proprietor checks that this takes place in line with statutory expectations. Where appropriate, leaders take advice from local authority and specialist services.

Pupils have confidence in their trusted adults in school. They know that staff have their best interests at heart and listen to them. Pupils feel they have a voice in what happens to them.

The safeguarding policy follows government guidance. It is available to see on the school's website. The school follows safer recruitment procedures, as recorded on its single central record, to ensure that adults who wish to work with pupils are safe to do so.

The ISS in this part are now met.

Health and safety and risk assessment

At the previous emergency inspection, the proprietor did not ensure the ISS were met. The information that the school receives was not fed through to pupils' risk assessments and provision. Consequently, pupils did not consistently get the help they need to overcome barriers to their safety and wellbeing. Risk assessments were too generic and lacked the detail to help professionals support pupils professionally. Leaders did not update risk assessments promptly.

In the school's action plan, the proprietor proposed to review the school's risk assessment policy and procedures, and ensure that all pupils have personalised risk assessments which are regularly reviewed and updated. They proposed to provide additional training so that staff have the training to review and update risk assessments effectively and promptly to meet pupils' needs and keep them safe.

The school and care home site now communicate information about pupils' behaviours, progress and wellbeing more promptly, regularly and robustly. Effective handover procedures take place twice daily, with clear record-keeping. This ensures that staff increasingly have, and can use, accurate and up-to-date information about pupils.

Staff have received training on how to assess and reduce risk to pupils. The proprietor has reviewed and revised the risk assessment policy and templates used. Although templates were more comprehensive, leaders and staff found the revised risk assessment templates to be too detailed and difficult to use. They lacked some up-to-date specific information pertinent to each pupil. This means that it was hard for staff to precisely identify some risks and take appropriate action. As a result, clearer, more usable and personalised

templates, based on one used in another school in the group, are being completed, but this work is ongoing and not yet complete.

This part of the ISS is not met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school does not meet the requirements of the schedule to The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection, as set out in the annex of this report. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

About this inspection

The inspector carried out this inspection under sections 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. Inspectors checked the school's compliance with the independent school standards. These are the requirements set out in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

Following our updated inspection framework, all inspections are now led by His Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs) or by Ofsted Inspectors (OIs) who have previously served as HMIs.

This inspection was conducted without notice.

The inspector spoke with the representatives of the proprietor, a governor, staff and pupils during the inspection.

The school had an emergency inspection on 12 March 2026. At that time, it did not comply with several of the independent school standards.

After the standard inspection, the Department for Education (DfE) required the school to prepare an action plan. This was a statutory requirement. Ofsted evaluated the school's action plan on 28 July 2026. This was deemed to be unacceptable. The DfE rejected the school's action plan on 28 August 2026.

The school is part of Cambian Childcare Ltd, which is owned by CareTech. The chair of the proprietory body is Farouk Rashid Sheikh.

Cambian has 22 schools and colleges across England.

This school operates from Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7LF.

The school caters for pupils who have a primary special educational need and/or disability diagnosis relating to their social and emotional mental health. Some pupils have an education, health and care plan.

Placements are commissioned by a range of local authorities.

The school does not currently use alternative provision.

Lead inspector	
Steve Woodley	His Majesty's Inspector

About this school

Proprietor	Cambian Childcare Limited
Headteacher	Mrs Karen Carrington
Type of school	Other independent special school
Capacity	22
Annual fees for day pupils	£59,993
Email address	karen.carrington@cambiangroup.com
Telephone	01638 598660
Website	https://www.cambiangroup.com/residential-services/our-care-homes/mental-health-services/merida/dunbroch-school/

Annex. Independent school standards and national minimum standards

Independent school standards that the school does not meet

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that -
  - 16(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and
  - 16(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- 34(1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school-
  - 34(1)(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
  - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
  - 34(1)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

Independent school standards requirements that the school now meets

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 7 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that-
  - 7(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
  - 7(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 11 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspects services providing education and skills for children and learners of all ages, and inspects and regulates services that care for children and young people

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: http://eepurl.com/iTrDn.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2026