

Illuminate You

George Henderson Lodge, Front Street, West Lindsey, Morton, Lincolnshire DN21 3AD

Unique reference number (URN): 152477

Pre-registration inspection report:

13 May 2026

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards. It is currently operating without registration

The purpose of this inspection was to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the proposed school's likely compliance with the independent school standards and associated requirements that are required for registration as an independent school.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

When we carry out pre-registration inspections of proposed independent schools, we report on the provider's likely compliance with part 8 of the independent school standards first. Under part 8, the proprietor is required to ensure that the school meets all of the independent school standards 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 both proprietor body and governance levels, leaders at the school demonstrate the appropriate knowledge and skills required to ensure that the school is successful and that the independent school standards are met consistently over time. The proposed school is well placed to actively promote and secure the wellbeing of the pupils it serves.

The independent school standards identified as unlikely to be met at the first pre-registration inspection have now been successfully addressed. Building work at the second school site is complete and the necessary permissions for its use as a school have been received.

The proprietor has ensured that suitable processes are in place to check and assure the quality of provision over time. Roles and responsibilities at both proprietor body and governance levels have been clearly defined so that they are well understood.

Leaders have ensured that suitable processes are in place to confirm that only appropriate individuals work with pupils. Leaders are aware of their duty to refer anyone they deem unsuitable to work with children to the disclosure and barring service.

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Curriculum

The school has prepared a suitable curriculum. It is broad in nature and will ensure that pupils experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative education. The curriculum is supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of the pupils the school is likely to serve. The curriculum will ensure that pupils are supported to develop speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. Those at the early stages of learning to read will be taught phonics. Leaders have ensured that staff have the necessary expertise to deliver this.

The school's curriculum policy provides a summary of how the curriculum is organised. The policy is published on the school's website. It makes clear that the curriculum will actively promote fundamental British values. It sets out that all pupils will be expected to learn and how pupils will make progress from their starting points.

Leaders have prepared a well-planned and sequenced programme for personal, social, and health education (PSHE). This reflects the school's aims and ethos and encourages respect for protected characteristics.

The proposed school has prepared a programme of careers advice and guidance that will provide pupils with impartial, accurate, and up-to-date information, enabling them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options.

Leaders have prepared an appropriate policy and curriculum for relationships, sex and health education. This will ensure that every pupil is provided with relationships and sex education. The policy makes clear which parts pupils can be withdrawn from and how parents and carers can request this. It makes clear that parents will be consulted before any changes are made to the policy. The policy is published on the school's website.

Teaching

Leaders have ensured that classrooms are suitably equipped and conducive to learning. They intend to carry out regular checks to ensure that teachers deliver well-planned lessons and use effective teaching methods that enable pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress.

Teachers will receive regular training and support to understand pupils' special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Leaders have a detailed and thorough understanding in this regard.

Leaders have appointed suitably experienced staff. They have a clear understanding of which areas of teaching need to be further strengthened. Leaders will ensure that arrangements for managing staff performance will focus on improving quality of teaching.

Assessment

The school has developed a suitable assessment framework. Pupils' achievement will be checked against the intent of the curriculum. Teachers will use a wide range of strategies to assess how well pupils are progressing in lessons and over time. Leaders have a programme of quality-assurance activities planned that will ensure that assessments are carried out consistently.

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school's proposed programme for PSHE is well organised. It actively promotes fundamental British values and ensures that pupils are taught about the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. Pupils will be taught about civil and criminal law in England and will be supported to distinguish between right and wrong. Pupils will be encouraged to make a positive contribution to their local area. For example, the school intends for pupils to develop their own allotment, revitalise a neglected part of a local woodland and participate in local community events.

The school's visitors policy sets out how any materials shared by visiting speakers will be checked before they are presented to pupils. Staff will be expected to provide a balanced presentation of opposing views. As such, the school has taken sufficient steps to ensure that pupils are protected from partisan political views.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Safeguarding

The school's arrangements for safeguarding are robust and fit for purpose. The school's safeguarding policy is published on its website. It makes clear what staff should do in the event of a safeguarding concern or disclosure. Safeguarding concerns and actions taken will be recorded on an electronic platform. There is a suitable number of trained and experienced safeguarding leaders. The proprietor has ensured that an appropriate level of quality-assurance activity is undertaken. This will provide school leaders with the necessary challenge and support. Safeguarding arrangements have due regard to statutory requirements and guidance.

Behaviour and supervision of pupils

The school plans to employ a suitable number of staff to ensure adequate levels of supervision.

Leaders have prepared a written behaviour policy that is 'love-led'. This sets out how pupils' needs and barriers will be identified and addressed over time. Leaders intend to carry out regular checks to ensure that their approach to behaviour is implemented consistently. The school intends for detailed records to be kept regarding pupils' successes and challenges. This information will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the provision in place is working effectively.

Anti-bullying

Leaders have prepared an appropriate anti-bullying strategy. This provides a clear definition of bullying and outlines the steps that will be taken should it occur. Pupils will be taught about the different forms that bullying can take, including when online. They will be taught how to respond when bullying occurs.

Health and safety, fire and first aid

Leaders have prepared robust systems to ensure that health and safety laws are complied with. These are reflected in the school's written health and safety policy. The school has carried out the necessary fire-risk assessments at both sites. These demonstrate that the school is compliant with fire-safety requirements. The school has a written first-aid policy, which sets out that first aid will be administered promptly and competently.

Admissions and attendance

The school has prepared an electronic system for recording pupils' attendance. Absences will be categorised using the codes set by the Department for Education. The school's admissions register contains the required information.

Risk assessment

The school has prepared a comprehensive suite of risk assessments. These clearly identify the potential risks posed by the premises and activities. Risks are systematically evaluated, and appropriate mitigating actions are taken where necessary. The school's written risk-assessment policy is fit for purpose.

The school has prepared a policy outlining its use of restraint. This will only be used as a last resort by suitably trained staff. The policy sets out the written information that parents will be provided with following an incident. The school does not intend to use any form of seclusion.

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

The recruitment checks made on staff, supply staff and the proprietor

The proprietor understands their safer recruitment responsibilities. They will ensure that all relevant checks are undertaken before adults are permitted to work with pupils. New members of staff and supply staff will not be allowed to start work at the school until the relevant pre-appointment checks have been undertaken.

Leaders clearly articulate the importance of the recruitment processes as a crucial element of providing a safe school culture.

The single central record of these recruitment checks

Recruitment checks are recorded in a single central record. This contains all required information for staff currently in post. The school may make use of supply staff. The single central record sets out the checks that would be carried out should this be the case.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Toilet and washing facilities, water supply, changing accommodation and showers

There are a suitable number of toilets for pupils. There is an adequate supply of hot and cold water, and hot water does not pose a risk of scalding. There are suitable facilities for pupils to change and to shower.

Medical room and accommodation for pupils' therapy needs

At both sites, the school has set aside rooms that can be used for medical purposes. These are suitably equipped and located near toilet facilities.

Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of pupils

At both school sites, the premises and accommodation have been prepared to a good standard. They are well organised and conducive to learning. Pupils' health, safety and welfare have been fully considered.

Lighting and acoustic conditions

Lighting and acoustic conditions at both sites are appropriate and fit for purpose. All rooms are well lit, including by natural daylight.

Outdoor space

Both sites provide attractive and spacious outdoor areas. These are safe and offer suitable opportunities for play and physical education. At both sites, leaders are imminently installing wooden garden room structures.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school's website contains the key information required, including the publication of the school's safeguarding policy and details about how the school will manage complaints. Parents will be able to request paper copies of policies and documents. The school understands the requirement to publish any future inspection reports. The school has a suitable format for reporting to parents about pupils' achievements while at school. The school intends to provide information to local authorities, regarding pupils who are looked after and pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan, when requested. The school will work with local authorities to facilitate this.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school has a complaints policy which is on its website. The policy explains to parents how to complain, should the need arise. There are clear timescales and the arrangements for a formal complaint are explained. The school will keep copies of findings and recommendations and make these available during an inspection.

The school's accessibility plan

The school's accessibility plan provides details of how all pupils, including those with SEND, will be enabled to access the curriculum, premises and information.

About this inspection

The inspector carried out this inspection under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The inspector checked the school's likely 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 renewed inspection framework, all inspections are now led by His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) or by Ofsted Inspectors (OIs) who have previously served as HMIs.

The inspector spoke with the joint chairs of the proprietorial body, the chair of governors and staff responsible for safeguarding during the inspection. He visited both school sites.

The school is currently operating. It is providing part-time education to seven pupils. All pupils have EHC plans. The inspector spoke informally to pupils in lessons.

The proposed school will be based on two sites. The main site is at George Henderson Lodge, Front Street, West Lindsey, Morton, Lincolnshire DN21 3AD. This is the site at which the school is registered. The second site is located at The Hideaway, 12A Weldon Road, Hemswell, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 5UG. These two sites are eight miles apart.

The school will accommodate up to 20 pupils aged 11 to 16 years. It will provide education for pupils who have social, emotional or mental health needs and/or a diagnosis of autism. It is expected that all pupils will have SEND and an EHC plan.

Lead inspector

Vic Wilkinson

His Majesty's Inspector

About this proposed school

Proprietor

Illuminate Care Group Limited

Headteacher

Derrick Masters

Type of school

Other independent special school

Capacity	20
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age on roll	Provider's current position: 0
Number of part-time pupils of compulsory school age on roll	Provider's current position: 7 Provider's proposal: 0
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities on roll	Provider's current position: 7 Provider's proposal: 20
Number of pupils on roll who have an education, health and care plan, or who are looked after by a local authority	Provider's current position: 7 Provider's proposal: 20
Age range of pupils	Provider's current position: 11 to 14 Provider's proposal: 11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Provider's current position: Male Provider's proposal: Mixed
Total hours operating as a school per week	Provider's current position: 25 Provider's proposal: 30
Total hours of teaching provided per week	Provider's current position: up to 18 Provider's proposal: 27
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	Provider's current position: 9 Provider's proposal: 24
Number of part-time teaching staff	Provider's current position: 0 Provider's proposal: 0
Annual fees for day pupils	£21,450 to £46,800
Email address	education@illuminatecaregroup.co.uk

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