

Roundwood School and Community Centre

Address: Longstone Avenue, Harlesden, Brent, London, NW10 3UN

Unique reference number (URN): 148250

Inspection report: 20 January 2026

Exceptional	
Strong standard	● ● ●
Expected standard	● ● ●
Needs attention	
Urgent improvement	

✔ **Safeguarding standards met**

The safeguarding standards are met. This means that leaders and/or those responsible for governance and oversight fulfil their specific responsibilities and have established an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and concerns are actively identified, acted upon and managed. As a result, pupils are made safer and feel safe.

How we evaluate safeguarding

When we inspect schools for safeguarding, they can have the following outcomes:

- **Met:** The school has an open and positive culture of safeguarding. All legal requirements are met.
- **Not met:** The school has not created an open and positive culture of safeguarding. Not all legal requirements are met.

Strong standard ●

Attendance and behaviour

Strong standard ●

Attendance in this alternative provision shows clear improvement from very low starting points. Pupils typically arrive with long histories of persistent absence, disrupted education and complex social, emotional and mental health needs. Leaders track attendance through patterns of engagement and attendance. Evidence shows increased regularity of attendance, improved punctuality and reductions in unauthorised absence across the cohort. Higher levels of authorised absence reflect careful professional judgement by leaders, including the use of phased timetables, therapeutic provision and safeguarding decisions. Improvement is evident across different groups of pupils, demonstrating that leaders' personalised and inclusive approach is effective.

Behaviour across the school is calm, respectful and well managed. This is particularly impressive given pupils' negative prior experiences of education. Classrooms and social times are orderly, well supervised and underpinned by positive relationships. Pupils respond well to clear expectations and nurturing support. Pupils appreciate that the school's environment enables them to focus on learning. Leaders' data-informed and restorative approach ensures that incidents of poor behaviour are infrequent, managed sensitively and used to support reflection and improvement. Bullying and discriminatory behaviour are rare and addressed promptly and consistently.

Leadership and governance

Strong standard ●

Leadership and governance are highly effective and underpinned by a clear moral purpose. This results in a strong positive impact on pupils' education, care and wellbeing. Leaders provide decisive, values-led direction, prioritising the right actions for improvement within a highly complex context. Decisions are consistently taken in pupils' best interests.

Leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to inclusion and equity. They know pupils and families well and shape provision around pupils' experiences, ensuring that no pupil is left out or overlooked. This inclusive approach informs curriculum design, safeguarding, attendance and behaviour strategies.

Governance is increasingly purposeful, supported by robust multi-academy trust oversight. Trustees and governors meet statutory responsibilities and use performance information effectively to hold leaders to account for safeguarding, standards and the use of resources. They also provide appropriate support for leaders. Continuity in leadership and governance has secured stability and sustained improvement.

Leaders, supported by the multi academy trust, ensure that staff benefit from high-quality, evidence-informed and sustained professional learning. This has strengthened teaching and learning and increased staff confidence and expertise. Leaders are mindful of staff wellbeing and workload in an intensive setting and take considered steps to support staff morale and retention. Staff are overwhelmingly proud to work at the school. Parents work closely with the school and are happy that their children are in a safe school in which they can flourish.

Leaders work effectively with external partners, including schools and agencies. This helps to secure trust and positive outcomes for pupils, including successful reintegration.

Personal development and wellbeing

Strong standard 

This area is a strength of the school and has a highly positive impact on pupils' confidence, safety, engagement and preparation for adulthood. Leaders have established a responsive and inclusive personal development programme that is carefully tailored to pupils' complex needs and experiences.

The personal, social, health and citizenship curriculum is broad, well structured and adapted appropriately in response to emerging risks and pupils' needs. It supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through opportunities for reflection, discussion and respectful debate. Pupils demonstrate secure understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, different family structures and how to keep themselves safe online and offline. Pupils are clear about who they can speak to if they are worried and report feeling safe and respected.

The programme is particularly effective for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Leaders integrate personal development into the curriculum and pastoral systems so that learning is reinforced through subjects alongside mentoring and enrichment. Relationships and sex education is age-appropriate, carefully sequenced and sensitive to pupils' backgrounds, with clear progression from key stage 3 to key stage 4.

Enrichment is purposeful and contributes well to pupils' personal development. Sport, boxing, music, trips, careers education and external speakers broaden pupils' experiences, build self-esteem and re-engage pupils, who were previously disengaged from education. Pupils develop teamwork, discipline and resilience. Many pupils report increased confidence and improved emotional regulation.

Careers education is well planned and personalised. It supports pupils to explore a range of pathways, including further education, apprenticeships and employment. Leaders also prioritise preparation for adulthood, including independent travel, financial awareness and personal responsibility.

Overall, the school provides a coherent and effective personal development programme that equips pupils with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate positively in society and prepare well for their next steps.

Expected standard

Achievement

Expected standard 

Pupils make meaningful progress from very low starting points. Many enter the provision with significant gaps in learning, disrupted schooling and histories of exclusion. Evidence from work in books, interventions and pupil voice shows improving literacy, subject

knowledge and readiness for accreditation. Leaders ensure that targeted one-to-one reading support strengthens pupils' fluency and comprehension, enabling pupils to access the wider curriculum with increasing confidence.

Published outcomes provide a limited insight into pupils' achievement in this specialist context. Pupils who completed GCSE examinations in English, mathematics and science achieved broadly positively. Outcomes in mathematics and science have improved year on year, reflecting stronger teaching and support. High achievement in some GCSE subjects reflects the effectiveness of personalised pathways, where pupils are stable and engaged. Entry-level qualifications help pupils to secure success and rebuild confidence.

Pupils make sustained progress over time. They are increasingly well prepared for next steps in education, employment or training.

Curriculum and teaching

Expected standard 

Leaders have designed a clear and flexible curriculum that meets pupils' needs and prepares them for their next steps. Pupils join the school at different points throughout the year and begin learning immediately. Where pupils are not ready for a full timetable, learning is temporarily adjusted without lowering expectations. Pupils benefit from clear pathways towards GCSEs, functional skills or reintegration into mainstream education.

Teaching is calm, supportive and well organised. Staff understand that pupils need to feel safe and settled before learning can be successful. Classrooms have clear routines and positive relationships. Work is generally well matched to pupils' starting points, with support such as visual prompts, structured materials and adult guidance. Pupils engage with challenging content. Lessons are planned to help pupils build their understanding step by step. Leaders recognise the importance of ensuring that all staff, including new and agency staff, deliver the curriculum consistently and adapt learning effectively for all pupils.

Leaders know that many pupils arrive with significant gaps in reading, writing and mathematics. While support is in place, they recognise the need to prioritise these foundational skills more sharply from admission so that systematic, well-matched support is implemented promptly and delivered consistently.

Inclusion

Expected standard 

Inclusion is a strength of the school's culture and practice. Leaders and staff identify pupils' needs swiftly and accurately. Leaders ensure that staff have detailed knowledge of disadvantaged, pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, pupils known or previously known to social care, or those who face additional barriers, such as trauma, anxiety or disrupted education. Leaders and staff use assessment information, safeguarding records and professional insight to develop a clear understanding of each pupil's starting point.

Leaders reduce barriers to learning and wellbeing through carefully planned and flexible support. This includes personalised timetables, targeted mentoring, reading and literacy intervention, therapeutic and sensory-aware approaches, and appropriate classroom

adaptations. These approaches are used well to enable pupils to engage more effectively in learning and rebuild confidence.

Pupils' progress is monitored closely through regular reviews, case discussions and analysis of pupils' attendance, behaviour and learning. Leaders evaluate the impact of interventions and adapt provision promptly when pupils' needs change. Staff receive appropriate training and are well supported to work with all pupils. That said, there is some variability in how some staff support pupils.

Leaders work effectively with families, social care, the Virtual School and a range of external professionals to coordinate support and raise aspirations. Pupil premium funding for disadvantaged pupils is used flexibly to meet academic, pastoral and practical needs. This ensures equitable access to education and improved outcomes for the most vulnerable pupils.

What it's like to be a pupil at this school

Pupils describe the school as a place where they feel safe, understood and accepted. Many arrive having experienced trauma, exclusion, anxiety or extended periods of non-attendance. From admission, pupils are welcomed into a calm, orderly and nurturing environment, where staff know them well and prioritise pupils' safety and wellbeing.

Pupils are clear about who they can speak to if they are worried. They report that all concerns are taken seriously and addressed promptly. Incidents of bullying are rare, and leaders ensure that discriminatory behaviour is not tolerated.

Behaviour across the school is extremely positive, particularly given pupils' complex backgrounds and previous experiences of education. Pupils say behaviour is far better than in their previous schools, which enables them to learn and build relationships. Clear routines, strong staff-pupil relationships and restorative approaches help pupils to manage their behaviour and develop confidence and self-control. Social times are calm, inclusive and well supervised.

Pupils are positive about their learning. Teaching is supportive and appropriately adapted to meet pupils' needs. Pupils value the encouragement and structure provided by staff and say that they receive help when learning is difficult. They speak positively about their learning and understand how learning supports progress towards qualifications. Many pupils say they are learning more successfully here than in previous mainstream settings.

Pupils achieve well from very low starting points. Leaders reduce barriers to learning through personalised timetables, mentoring, reading support and enrichment opportunities. Improvements in attendance are reflected through increased engagement, improved routines and greater consistency. Pupils express pride in their achievements and feel better prepared for their next steps.

Pupils also benefit from a strong programme of wider experiences. Sport, music, trips and careers education support pupils to develop resilience, confidence and aspiration. Overall,

pupils belong to a caring and inclusive community, where they are supported to grow, achieve and thrive.

Next steps

- Leaders should continue their close work with families, carers, care homes and external agencies to further strengthen the attendance and punctuality of pupils and particularly for persistently absent pupils.
 - Leaders should ensure that all staff consistently deliver the curriculum effectively and adapt teaching appropriately to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and other complex barriers.
 - Leaders should ensure that systematic, well-matched support is implemented promptly from admission and delivered consistently to further support the development of pupils' foundational knowledge and skills, particularly in reading, writing and mathematics.
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About this inspection

Information about this school:

This school is part of Beckmead Trust, which means other people in the trust also have responsibility for running the school. The trust is run by the chief executive officer (CEO), Dr Jonty Clark, and overseen by a board of trustees, chaired by Mr Laurence Nesbitt.

Inspectors carried out this full inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

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

Inspectors spoke with the headteacher and other members of the leadership team, as well as the CEO, deputy CEO and chair of the trust board and governors. They also spoke with members of staff, parents, carers and pupils.

Information about this school:

This is an alternative provision that serves a vulnerable cohort of students aged 11 to 16, who have been excluded from mainstream education or require intensive support for social, emotional and mental health needs.

The headteacher took up post in September 2025.

The school does not use any other alternative provision.

Headteacher: Mrs Nagla Salama

Lead inspector:

Aliki Constantopoulou, His Majesty's Inspector

Team inspector:

Teresa Neary, Ofsted Inspector

Facts and figures used on inspection

The data was used by the inspector(s) during the inspection. More recent data may have been published since the inspection took place.

 This data is from 20 January 2026

School and pupil context**Total pupils**

18

What does this mean?

The total number of pupils currently at this school and how this compares to other schools of this phase in England.

School capacity

50

What does this mean?

The total number of pupils who can attend the school and how this compares to other schools of this phase in England.

Pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM)

44.4%

What does this mean?

The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan

0.00%

What does this mean?

The proportion of pupils with an education, health and care plan. This covers pupils with more support than is available through special educational needs support.

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) support

0.00%

What does this mean?

The proportion of pupils with reported special educational support needs at the school.

Location deprivation

Well above average

What does this mean?

Based on the English Indices of Deprivation (2019) and the school's location, we have calculated whether the school is located in a more or less deprived area.

Absence

Overall absence

The percentage of all possible mornings and afternoons missed due to absence from school (for whatever reason, whether authorised or unauthorised) across all pupils.

Year	This school
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2024/25 (1 term)	28.9%
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2023/24 (3 term)	30.0%
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2022/23 (3 term)	29.7%
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Persistent absence

The percentage of pupils missing 10% or more of their possible mornings and afternoons.

Year	This school
2024/25 (1 term)	72.0%
2023/24 (3 term)	83.3%
2022/23 (3 term)	83.7%

Our grades explained

Exceptional

Practice is exceptional: of the highest standard nationally. Other schools can learn from it.

Strong standard

The school reaches a strong standard. Leaders are working above the standard expected of them.

Expected standard

The school is fulfilling the expected standard of education and/or care. This means they are following the standard set out in statutory and non-statutory legislation and the professional standards expected of them.

Needs attention

The expected standards are not met but leaders are likely able to make the necessary improvements.

Urgent improvement

The school needs to make urgent improvements to provide the expected standard of education and/or care.

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.

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