

Inspection of La Mare de Carteret High School

Rue De Galaad, Castel, Guernsey GY5 7FN

Inspection dates: 15 and 16 March 2023

The quality of education	Requires improvement
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development and welfare	Good
Leadership and management	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this school?

La Mare de Carteret is a happy and welcoming school. Although there is a planned closure for the school, leaders ensure the environment remains stable and calm for pupils. As a result, most pupils enjoy school and are positive about their futures. However, the quality of education pupils receive is not consistently of a high quality. This means that some pupils are not as well prepared for their next steps in education or employment as they could be.

Bullying is rare. Pupils have confidence in staff to resolve any incidents swiftly and effectively. A minority of pupils display intolerant attitudes when discussing issues, such as sexuality. Leaders recognise this and use opportunities in the curriculum to discuss and challenge negative stereotypes.

Pupils across all year groups are encouraged to take on responsibilities. For example, they can be part of the junior leadership team or become prefects. Pupils have a strong voice and feel that leaders listen to their ideas. Many pupils participate in the growing range of extra-curricular opportunities. These include completing The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, being part of the science ambassador team and performing in school productions. Pupils develop their confidence and character through such activities.

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

Senior leaders are making improvements to the quality of education at the school. They ensure that all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), follow a broad curriculum that matches the expectations of the Bailiwick curriculum. Most subject leaders are clear about the knowledge they want pupils to gain. They have carefully considered the order of what pupils learn to allow pupils to deepen their understanding. However, in some subjects, the curriculum is not ambitious enough. It does not routinely build on what pupils already know.

Senior leaders have clear expectations on how the curriculum should be taught. However, there remains some weak practice. Subject leaders do not consistently identify and improve this. Where this is the case, pupils' work is often incomplete or of poor quality. Although teachers check what pupils remember, they do not always challenge pupils to extend their ideas further.

La Mare de Carteret is an inclusive school. Leaders provide teachers with information about pupils' specific needs. The quality of this is improving. As a result, pupils with SEND receive effective guidance from adults in the classroom. Leaders also provide bespoke support for identified pupils. For example, some pupils attend the school's resource base which provides a safe, nurturing space and benefits from the expertise of trained professionals.

Leaders are at the early stages of establishing a culture of reading. For example, subject leaders understand the importance of teaching vocabulary. However, too many pupils do not choose to read for pleasure. Pupils who find reading difficult receive additional support. However, it is too early to judge the impact of this.

Leaders have high expectations of pupils' conduct. The majority of pupils meet these expectations and show consistently positive attitudes to learning. Pupils move around the site calmly and purposefully. They respond well to instructions from staff. At social times, pupils enjoy a variety of activities with their peers.

Pupils learn about issues important to their personal development, such as how to develop positive relationships with others, drugs and alcohol awareness and online safety. The curriculum is appropriate to pupils' ages and is adapted to reflect any local or national concerns. Pupils value this curriculum and say that it helps to prepare them for life outside of school. Through the careers curriculum, pupils receive appropriate guidance, so they are well informed about potential next steps.

Staff are proud to work at this school. Staff morale is high. This is testament to the strong collaborative culture established by leaders. Staff, including newly qualified teachers, say leaders support them to manage their workload. Staff benefit from valuable opportunities to develop their expertise.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. They know vulnerable pupils well. Leaders provide regular and effective training that enhances staff's knowledge of safeguarding issues.

Leaders keep accurate records and have clear processes to deal with any safeguarding concerns. They seek support from external services promptly, as required.

Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know about online safety and harmful sexual behaviours. Pupils say that they are confident to seek support from a trusted adult in school.

What does the school need to do to improve?

- Expectations of what pupils can achieve through the curriculum are not consistently high enough. Consequently, pupils' understanding is not deepened over time. Furthermore, some pupils do not take pride in the quality of their work. Leaders should raise the expectations of what pupils can achieve.

- The reading curriculum is at an early stage of development. This means that the culture of reading within the curriculum and for pleasure is not well established. Leaders must ensure that they raise the profile of reading swiftly so that pupils develop their cultural understanding further and broaden their choice of vocabulary.

School details

Inspection number	10240086
Type of school	Secondary
Age range of pupils	11-16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	434
Appropriate authority	The States of Guernsey
Principal	Mrs V Tomlin
Website	www.lamarehigh.com
Date of previous Ofsted inspection	Not previously inspected by Ofsted

Information about this school

- La Mare de Carteret High school is a non-selective 11-16 secondary school, located in the Castel region of Guernsey. The school is part of a secondary school partnership which has an executive principal.
- The school is scheduled to close in 2025 and will not be accepting Year 7 pupils from September 2023.
- The school uses two unregistered alternative providers.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 35 of the Guernsey Education Law 1970.

- 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 held discussions with the principal, executive principal, members of the senior leadership team, the special educational needs coordinator, curriculum leaders and representatives from the Education Office.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: English, mathematics, science, modern foreign languages and physical education. For each deep dive, inspectors discussed the curriculum with subject leaders, visited a sample of

lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.

- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, inspectors scrutinised the single central record of adults working in the school. The lead inspector met with the child protection officer to consider how well the school identifies pupils who are at risk and engages with external services. Inspectors also spoke with a range of pupils and staff about safeguarding.
- Inspectors considered responses to the pupil and staff questionnaires issued at the time of the inspection and the Guernsey Parent Survey.

Inspection team

Kelly Olive, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

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