

Summary for children and young people

Name: Royal Alexandra & Albert School (The)

URN: SC013933

Date of inspection: 06 Mar 2018

Dear Children and Young People

Thank you for making Sarah Olliver, Suzi Lemmy and I feel so welcome when we visited boarding at The Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

We came to find out how well Mr Dixon, the headmaster and Mr Skidmore, the deputy head - pastoral and boarding, and their staff look after you. We paid particular attention to you raised in Ofsted's 'point in time' survey. Here are some key findings:

- **Activities:** We found the school has an extensive programme of recreational opportunities, all delivered very safely. Most of you agreed with the young person who said 'I love... the range of activities. I'm always busy rushing around having an awesome time.'
- **Relationships with boarding staff:** you are able to approach staff and talk about issues that concern you, with confidence that they will help. There are some extremely positive relationships but a few that are more difficult.
- **Keeping you and your belongings safe:** The actions of staff, CCTV and locked external and internal doors mean that you are safe in the boarding houses. Possessions sometimes go missing - often mislaid rather than taken. The school have locks for wardrobes and safes where valuables can be kept for you. Staff in some houses do more to help pupils find things not put in one of these places than others. Fire precautions need to be more rigorously followed (but don't worry, risks are small)
- **Bullying:** There are some instances of pupils picking on others, which is very unpleasant. We found that 'staff put a stop to it straightaway when they see it or hear about it' as one of you told us.
- **Meals:** we enjoyed the food we had and there was plenty of choice. Pupils told us that there is a lot of chicken and rice on the menu – some of you get bored with that but others like it the best. We think the school could do more to explain why they cannot serve bacon more often or give you sugar for cereals.
- **Behaviour:** staff do well at helping boarders improve their behaviour – we particularly like the awards for 'hero' of the week – or the equivalent in your house.
- Many of you we spent time with really impressed us with your positive attitudes and first-rate characters, which the school has done much to promote.

For these reasons, we have judged the school to be 'Outstanding'. This means it helps you to make significant progress and to provide you will many positive experiences.

Best wishes,

Chris Peel

Ofsted Social Care Inspector.