Head Teacher Report
Southview Residential Special School – The View January 2026.

Julian Cochrane – Head Teacher
David Beardwell – Lead Academy Advisor (formerly Chair of Governors)

Purpose of this Report
This report has been compiled in response to the National Minimum Standards for Residential Special Schools. Standard 3.4 requires that the Head Teacher (or school equivalent), governing body, trustees, or proprietor carry out and record in writing, once each year:
• A review of the operation and resourcing of the school's welfare provision for residential pupils, in relation to:
• Its Statement of Purpose;
• Its staffing policy;
• The placement plans for individual children; and
• An internal assessment of compliance, with these standards and actions undertaken to ensure compliance.

Where appropriate, this report is incorporated within the review of the whole school.

Head Teacher's Assessment and Overview: January 2025 – January 2026
The past year has been an exceptionally successful period for The View. Staff should be extremely proud of the impact their dedication and professionalism has had on our children and families. This success was formally recognised in Ofsted's inspection in November 2025, where the residential provision was judged Outstanding in all areas.

Key points, Ofsted Inspection (25–26 November 2025):
• Overall experiences and progress of children and young people were judged to be outstanding
• How well children and young people are helped and protected were judged to be outstanding
• The effectiveness of leaders and managers were judged to be outstanding
• The strong partnership between school and residential staff.
• The embedding of research-informed practice.
• High-quality training and professional development.
• Excellent oversight by senior leaders and Academy Advisors.
• The family atmosphere and strong sense of belonging experienced by children.

Inspectors stated that:
'The residential special school provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the school contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people'.
The inspection praised the warm, nurturing atmosphere within the residence, noting that children feel safe, valued and able to be themselves. Inspectors highlighted the exceptional quality of care, strong safeguarding culture, and highly effective leadership and governance. Importantly, no areas for improvement were identified.

Development Priorities 2025–2026

The View continues to be led by a highly skilled Residential Lead, supported by two Senior Residential Support Workers who manage daily operations and lead their teams. Strategic oversight remains with the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher, who report to Academy Advisors and Trustees.

Our development plan remains ambitious and responsive. Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Streamlining long-term planning and earlier involvement of Senior Staff.
- Embedding the student profiling pro forma.
- Business centre access for students.
- Embedding the Mental Health & Wellbeing Lead.
- Ensuring The View runs at full capacity and appropriate appointments are made to support this.

Staffing Structure

• Head Teacher – Strategic oversight, reporting to Academy Advisors and Trustees.
• Deputy Head Teacher – Strategic oversight and line management of Residential Lead.
• Residential Lead – Day to day management and strategic leadership of The View.
• Senior Residential Support Workers (x2) – Shift management and operational leadership.
• Residential Support Workers (x6) – Direct care and support, including a designated Mental Health and Wellbeing lead.

The Deputy Head Teacher meets bi-weekly with the Residential Lead. Half-termly strategic review meetings are held with the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Residential Lead, with Senior Residential Workers now included in relevant meetings. The Lead Academy Advisor continues regular evening visits and contributes to Standard 3 reports.

National Minimum Standards

Part A: Governance, Leadership and Management:

Leadership and governance are highly effective, creating a culture where children make significant progress. Accountability lines are clear and well understood. The View remains a standing agenda item at Academy Advisor and Trustee meetings. Supporting documentation includes:

Statement of Purpose
• Placement Plans aligned to EHCP targets
• Teacher referral records
• Safeguarding protocols
• Termly Head Teacher reports
• Ofsted Reports

Standard 1 – Statement of Purpose
The Statement of Purpose is reviewed termly and published on the school website. It is shared during open evenings, home visits and staff briefings. Updates made in 2025 expanded provision for college-aged students, supporting preparation for adulthood. Practice across The View consistently reflects this statement.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 2 – Leadership and Management
Leadership effectiveness was confirmed by Ofsted (November 2025) with an Outstanding judgement. The Lead Academy Advisor visits termly, reviews safeguarding and welfare, and comments on Standard 3 reports. Weekly meetings between the Deputy Head Teacher and Residential Lead ensure continuous quality assurance.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 3 – Monitoring by Independent Visitors
Independent visits continue through Platinum Care. All safer recruitment checks are complete and recorded on the SCR. Reports are reviewed by senior leaders, Academy Advisors and Trustees.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 4 – Inclusion, Equality and Diversity
Fully inclusive practice aligned with whole-school policy and adapted for residential context.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 5 – Records
All records are securely stored and maintained. Care plans are regularly updated in collaboration with medical professionals and the Personal Assistance Manager.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 6 – Admission and Induction
Robust admissions process linked to need. Student profiling protocol now fully embedded following 2025 development work.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 7 – Placement Planning and Review
Holistic plans reviewed fortnightly with students and families. Strong communication systems in place.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 8 – Transition and Preparing for Adulthood
Pathway Journey plans evidence strong progress. Ofsted praised preparation for adulthood and the annual multi-agency event.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 9 – Residential Accommodation
Purpose-built, accessible environment praised by Ofsted for thoughtful design and homely atmosphere.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standards 10–23
All standards relating to possessions, food, health, safeguarding, safety, parental contact, student voice, complaints, behaviour, bullying, relationships and activities continue to be fully met and were positively referenced during the 2025 inspection.

Standard 24 – Recruitment
Robust safer recruitment procedures maintained. All staff receive comprehensive induction.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 25 – Staff Deployment
No agency staff used. Consistent staffing supports attachment and security.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 26 – Staff Supervision, Training and Support
High-quality professional development pathway recognised by Ofsted as a significant strength. Diploma pathway in place and specialist training provided.
Assessment: Fully Met

Standard 27
Not applicable – no Educational Guardians appointed.

Next Steps and Development Summary:
Please refer to the updated The View Development Plan 2026 (Key strategic priorities):
• Continued embedding of the Diamond Model.
• Extending student leadership opportunities.
• Strengthening multi-agency transition pathways.
• Ongoing workforce development.
• Sustaining outstanding practice identified by Ofsted.

Conclusion
The November 2025 Ofsted inspection confirms that The View is an outstanding residential provision delivering exceptional outcomes. Leadership, safeguarding, care quality and staff development are all significant strengths. Our focus for 2026 is to sustain excellence while continuing to innovate and respond to the needs of our children, students and families.

Julian Cochrane
Head Teacher
January 2026