

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

School name	Kirkstone House School			
DfE number	925/6017			
Address	1 to 6 Main Street Baston Peterborough Lincolnshire PE6 9PA			
Headteacher	Mrs Corinne Jones			
Proprietor	Mr Edward George Wyman			
Number of pupils on roll	115			
	Boys	71	Girls	44
	Lower School	18	Upper School	97
Date of visit	11 March 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Kirkstone House School is a coeducational day school for pupils between the ages of three and eighteen. It is situated on the edge of Peterborough in Lincolnshire. The proprietor is named as the school's principal and is responsible for the governance of the school. The school is organised into two sections; the Lower School for pupils between the ages of three and eleven and an Upper School for those in Year 7 to Year 13. The school has 70 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom 41 have an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a progress monitoring visit in June 2018 following a regulatory compliance inspection in November 2017.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the progress monitoring inspection on 19 June 2018.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Not Met
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet and changing accommodation)	Remains Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance)	Remains Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27 (lighting)	Remains Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28 (water supply)	Remains Not Met
ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1)(c) (publication of the safeguarding policy)	Met
ISSR Part 8 paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Remains Not Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.2 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are well managed and implemented and provide appropriate support for pupils' needs. All staff, including those who are regular visitors to the school have received training on recent changes to regulatory guidance and on-line safety. An effective induction process is provided for all new staff to ensure that they fully understand their responsibilities, including the identity of the DSL team, KCSIE Part 1 and Annex A, the staff code of conduct and the behaviour policy. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles and have up to date training in line with local authority procedures. Staff receive regular safeguarding updates and their understanding is checked through a comprehensive checklist. Staff demonstrate a strong understanding of "early help" strategies and know how to report concerns about pupils or colleagues. They understand that concerns about senior leaders in the school should be reported to the local authority designated lead directly. Detailed safeguarding records are kept which are regularly monitored by both the DSL and the local authority. These show timely and appropriate liaison with parents and local agencies.
- 2.5 However, the proprietor does not demonstrate secure knowledge of safeguarding arrangements, in particular the appropriate process of referral to the local authority when concerns are expressed about senior managers. The proprietor receives regular reports and copies of the local authority annual audits of safeguarding arrangements from the DSL and sanctions the process of checks and balance which the local authority provide. The school's inadequate health and safety arrangements pose a safeguarding risk to pupils.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.6 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.7 The school has an appropriate written health and safety policy in place which covers the areas suggested by the relevant health and safety laws but this is not fully implemented. Staff and senior leaders are aware of their responsibilities to report any hazards they encounter and the proprietor is provided with a list of areas needing attention at least half termly. Measures to monitor and review procedures that ensure satisfactory health and safety standards are insufficient to ensure there is no risk to pupils across all sections of the school and enable relevant health and safety laws to be met. Records of health and safety checks and overall monitoring are insufficient to ensure that all risks to the welfare, health and safety of pupils are dealt with in a timely manner. Standards for water, lighting and slips and trip hazards are not met. Hazardous chemicals are stored incorrectly in the science laboratories contrary to the relevant regulations.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23]

- 2.8 The school does not meet all of the standard.
- 2.9 The school provides toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. There are separate facilities for boys and girls aged eight and over. The facilities in the Lower School have been re-tiled and further maintenance carried out ensuring that they are now maintained to a safe and hygienic standard. Suitable changing accommodation is provided for boys and girls. However, there are no suitable working shower facilities for pupils aged 11 years and over who receive physical education.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25]

- 2.10 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.11 Since the previous visit the school has ensured that the senior school playground is now free of risk of trips and slips by re-surfacing the area. The Lower School toilet facilities have been improved to ensure the health and safety of pupils. However, buildings are not adequately maintained, as worn flooring identified at the time of the previous visit has not been replaced and temporary solutions have not ensured that potential trips are prevented.

Premises and accommodation – lighting [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27]

- 2.12 The school does not meet all of the standard.
- 2.13 Since the previous inspection visit the school has taken some steps to improve lighting in the teaching spaces and to improve the external lighting over the site. Foliage has been removed from outside some rooms and some overhead lighting units have been replaced. Blinds have also been provided for windows to prevent glare. External lighting has been provided to ensure that people can enter and leave the site safely. Lighting in some teaching spaces is still unsuitable. At the time of the visit, a significant number of overhead strip lights were not working and in some cases, tubes removed and not replaced. This includes the two science laboratories where external light is more limited by large trees to the front and rear of the rooms.

Premises and accommodation – water supply [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28]

- 2.14 The school does not meet all of the standard.
- 2.15 Suitable drinking water is supplied for pupils and is appropriately labelled. Drinking water is separate to all toilet facilities and is readily accessible. Toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water. Since the previous visit the temperature of the water in the Lower School has been adjusted to ensure that there is no scalding risk to pupils. However the temperature of the water in the Upper School facilities was too hot, posing a risk of scalding. A process of regular monitoring to ensure that there is no risk to pupils across all sections of the school has not been established.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.16 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

2.17 The school does not meet the standard.

2.18 The school's leadership and management have successfully addressed some points on the action plan submitted following the previous inspection. These include the installation of external lighting, the refurbishment of the Lower School toilet facilities, improvement to lighting in some areas of the school by the removal of foliage and installation of blinds to prevent glare in the classrooms. The Upper School play area has also been partially re-surfaced to prevent slips and trips. However the proprietors do not yet have a suitable plan in place to ensure that all the independent school standards are met consistently. Proprietors do not demonstrate good skills and knowledge to ensure that the standards are met consistently. They have not monitored the action plan to ensure matters have been fully addressed nor provided sufficient support to ensure that all remedial work is completed in a timely manner or ensured that hazardous chemicals are appropriately stored. Responsibilities for safeguarding, health and safety and for providing suitably maintained premises and accommodation have not been met. As a result, they do not promote the well-being of pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

3.1 The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 7

- Ensure the proprietor has a secure knowledge of safeguarding arrangements, in particular the appropriate process of referral to the local authority when concerns are expressed about senior managers [paragraph 7 (a) and (b)].

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 11

- Ensure that hazardous chemicals are stored correctly according to the relevant regulations [paragraph 11 and, for the same reason, paragraph 7 (a) and (b)]
- Ensure that monitoring of health and safety requirements is conducted and acted upon in a systematic and timely manner [paragraph 11 and, for the same reason, paragraph 7 (a) and (b)].

ISSR Part 5 Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation, paragraph 23

- Ensure that suitable showering facilities are available for pupils aged 11 and over [paragraph 23 (1)(c)].

ISSR Part 5 Premises and accommodation – maintenance, paragraph 25

- Ensure that all worn flooring is replaced and that all floor covering is securely fastened to eliminate the risks of slips and trips [paragraph 25].

ISSR Part 5 Premises and accommodation – lighting, paragraph 27

- Ensure that there is sufficient light in all classrooms, having regard to the nature of the activities which normally take place therein, by ensuring that all overhead lighting is working correctly [paragraph 27 (a)].

ISSR Part 5 Premises and accommodation – water supply, paragraph 28

- Ensure that a system of monitoring is put into place to ensure that water temperatures in all sections of the schools do not pose a risk of scalding [paragraph 28 (1)(d)].

ISSR Part 8 Quality of leadership and management, paragraph 34

- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, particularly the proprietor, demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34 (1)(a)].
- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34 (1)(b)].
- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities actively promote the physical well-being of pupils [paragraph 34 (1)(c)].

4. Summary of evidence

Written materials

- Safeguarding policy
- Arrangements to educate pupils about safeguarding, including e-safety
- Records of staff training with particular reference to safeguarding
- Code of conduct for staff
- Behaviour policy
- Children missing education policy
- Local authority audits for safeguarding
- Maintenance audits

Meetings with school personnel

- Introductory meeting with the head – to discuss arrangements for the day and to provide initial thoughts on areas specified as focus for the visit
- Meeting with the DSL – to discuss implementation of safeguarding policy, training and induction of new staff
- Meeting with the principal – to discuss progress on improvements to premises and accommodation since the previous visit and for safeguarding oversight
- Meeting with a group of staff chosen by inspectors

Activities on site

- Further scrutiny and evaluation of implementation of policies and documentation (as detailed above)
- Tours of the school site
- Interviews with pupils in Years 8 and 11 chosen by inspectors
- Meeting of inspectors