



Material Change Inspection Report

City of London School for Girls

April 2024

School's details

School	City of London School for Girls			
DfE number	201/6005			
Address	City of London School for Girls St Giles' Terrace Barbican London EC2Y 8BB			
Telephone number	0207 847 5500			
Email address	reception@clsg.org.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Jenny Brown			
Chair of governors	Alderman Robert Howard			
Proprietor	Corporation of London			
Age range	9 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	813			
	CJS Years 5 and 6	49	Lower school Years 7 and 8	250
	Senior school Years 9 to 11	318	Sixth form	196
Date of inspection	19 April 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 City of London School for Girls (CLSG) is an independent day school for female pupils situated in the Barbican, London. The school was founded in 1894 and is one of three independent schools which are owned by the City of London Corporation, who appoint a board of governors to administer the school. The school is organised into three sections: lower school, for pupils in Years 7 and 8; senior school, for pupils in Years 9 to 11; sixth form, for pupils in Years 12 and 13.
- 1.2 In September 2022, pupils from the prep school, together with prep school pupils from City of London School (CLS), moved into a new site forming a new co-educational school, known as City Junior School (CJS). Female pupils in Years 5 and 6 at CJS are still officially on the roll of CLSG.
- 1.3 The school has 42 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). None has an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in May 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.4 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase its capacity from 820 to 860 pupils. It was focused on CLSG and did not include inspection of provision for Years 5 and 6. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18-21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23-29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	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 meets the standard.
- 2.4 The governing body ensures that the school's safeguarding policy is implemented effectively and that it provides appropriate support for pupils' needs. This is achieved through effective annual review, termly reports from the school's safeguarding team and liaison by the designated safeguarding governor. Safeguarding is overseen by an effective safeguarding team. All have the necessary seniority and an appropriate level of training to deal with safeguarding matters.
- 2.5 Staff receive a suitably thorough induction when they join the school. Training for all staff is updated regularly, particularly at the start of the year, when staff are apprised of any changes which have been made to statutory guidance. Training is in line with local procedures. All staff have read *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (September 2023) and have a good understanding of safeguarding requirements. Staff and pupils are provided with advice with regard to online safety. There is a suitable safer recruitment policy, and those who are responsible for appointing new staff have had suitable training in safer recruitment.
- 2.6 Staff know what to do should a pupil disclose any matters of a safeguarding nature. They respond appropriately to any concern raised by a pupil and take action where needed. Specific incidents are recorded thoroughly, and this facilitates the early identification of any overarching issues. The school acts effectively in any cases of sexual harassment or child-on-child abuse which occur. It is active in supporting pupils where there are any concerns about their mental health. There is effective liaison with external agencies from whom safeguarding leaders seeks advice whenever required.
- 2.7 Staff know what to do if they have concerns about another member of staff. Low-level concerns are reported appropriately and recorded; more serious concerns are reported to the headmistress. Any allegations against staff are handled appropriately, and the school refers any serious incidents to external agencies as required. Staff are familiar with the school's whistleblowing policy and would not hesitate to use it if the need arose. They understand, and follow, the staff code of conduct.
- 2.8 The strength of the safeguarding team and the pastoral structures to support pupils indicate that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Procedures to ensure the health and safety of the pupils are effective. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Appropriate measures are in place to comply with fire-safety requirements. Fire drills are held termly, and teachers and pupils are familiar with the routine for emergency evacuation. Exit routes are clearly marked, and escape routes are kept free from obstruction. Fire alarms and fire extinguishers are serviced regularly and are appropriately situated. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Staff supervision rotas for various parts of the school exist and are implemented effectively to ensure that pupils are properly supervised. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 The school has an appropriate risk-assessment policy and makes careful assessment of risks relating to pupils' welfare, the school's accommodation, off-site activities and educational visits. Appropriate measures are identified to mitigate and manage these risks. The proposal to increase the total number of pupils has been risk-assessed effectively. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 The school has an appropriate recruitment policy which outlines thorough procedures for checking the suitability of staff and proprietors. All checks are recorded on a single central record of appointments (SCR), and documentation to verify these checks is available in staff files. With the exception of a few checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the SCR shows that all checks undertaken on staff appointed since the previous inspection have been carried out before staff have started work at the school. In the few instances when there has been a delay in checking the DBS certificate, a suitable risk assessment has been made and acted upon. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23-29]

- 2.19 The school meets the standards.
- 2.20 The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Suitable toilet and changing facilities and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.21 The relocation of pupils in Years 5 and 6 to CJS has freed up space which, in turn, has allowed a gradual refurbishment of different parts of the building. It has also released space to accommodate five classes in Years 7 to 10. A tour of the accommodation shows that there is sufficient free accommodation to

allow for expansion to five classes in Year 11 and an increase in the number of pupils in the sixth form. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

2.22 The school meets the requirement 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]

2.23 The school meets the standard.

2.24 Governors maintain effective oversight of the school. They ensure that leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Summary of findings

- 3.1 The school has moved from four-form entry to five-form entry. This expansion, which started in 2021, has reached Year 9. The request to increase the number of pupils on roll is to accommodate further expansion as pupils move, year on year, into Years 10 to 13. The relocation of pupils in Years 5 and 6 to CJS has facilitated this expansion and released sufficient space to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers without the need for further building works. At its previous inspection in May 2022, the school was deemed to meet all of the Independent School Standards Regulations. Nothing observed on this visit indicates any change in quality or provision.

Recommendation

- 3.2 It is recommended that the school's request to increase the maximum number of pupils on roll from 820 to 860 is granted.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a group of governors. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.