



Material Change Inspection Report

Prince's Mead School

March 2024

School's details

School	Prince's Mead School		
DfE number	850/6002		
Registered charity number	288675		
Address	Prince's Mead School Worthy Park House King's Worthy Winchester Hampshire SO21 1AN		
Telephone number	01962 888000		
Email address	admissions@princesmeadschool.org.uk		
Headmaster	Mr Adam King		
Chair of governors	Mrs Melanie Renwick		
Proprietor	Prince's Mead School Trust		
Age range	3 to 11		
Number of pupils on roll	296		
	Nursery	26	Pre-prep 97
	Prep	173	
Date of inspection	22 March 2024		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Prince's Mead School is a co-educational day school located in a rural setting near Winchester in Hampshire. It is a charitable trust administered by a single governing body. The school comprises three sections: the nursery for pupils aged three to four years, which comprises the early years setting; the pre-prep for pupils aged four to seven years; and the prep for those aged seven to eleven years. The school has 59 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. One has an education, health and care plan. One pupil speaks English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in May 2023

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase capacity from 300 to 330. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

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 of pupils)	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 Scrutiny of records, observation and discussions with staff and pupils indicate that appropriate safeguards are effectively implemented, including in the early years. Those responsible for safeguarding hold positions within the school's senior management team. They have been appropriately trained and are suitably knowledgeable. There is regular sharing of information between the safeguarding team and other members of staff.
- 2.5 Governors provide effective oversight of the school's safeguarding processes and are appropriately trained in safeguarding. They ensure appropriate monitoring and filtering of technology. A governor reviews policy implementation with the safeguarding team twice a term, and any live safeguarding cases. Safeguarding is considered at all meetings of the governance committee and the full governing body receives a report from the safeguarding team at its termly meetings. Governors receive an annual report on safeguarding and child protection and review the safeguarding policy each year. Any serious cases are carefully reviewed and lessons learned.
- 2.6 A governor interviews pupils and staff on regular visits to the school. They check, through discussions with pupils, that pupils know who to speak to if they have concerns and that they feel safe in school and online. During the inspection, pupils reported that they are treated fairly by the teachers, that kindness and mutual respect characterise the school and that they feel safe, including online. When pupils raise concerns, they receive a response and action is taken when necessary. This is confirmed in records of safeguarding.
- 2.7 There are effective procedures to ensure that appropriate and timely checks are made to confirm the suitability of staff. The appointment process is thorough and systematic and suitably detailed records are kept. Governors carry out a termly check of the single central record of appointments.
- 2.8 Staff are suitably trained and discussions with them confirmed that this training, including appropriate induction training, has been effectively understood. In discussion, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of how to report concerns that they may have about other adults in the school and confirmed that they would do so if this were necessary. If pupils make a safeguarding disclosure, staff know how to respond appropriately. The school implements appropriate arrangements for handling allegations, including reporting to local and national agencies.
- 2.9 These processes ensure the proprietor exercises suitable oversight of the school's safeguarding arrangements. The arrangements are likely to continue to meet requirements in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.

- 2.11 The proprietor ensures that the school complies with the relevant health and safety laws by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Systematic records show that appropriate checks are conducted on a regular basis. Staff are able to report any concerns so that any trends can be identified and risks mitigated. The current arrangements indicate that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school has a suitable fire safety policy. A fire risk assessment of the premises has been undertaken by an appropriately qualified person and any recommendations implemented in a timely manner. Fire safety equipment is properly maintained and procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are well understood by staff and pupils. Termly fire drills are carried out and recorded. The arrangements are likely to continue to meet the standards in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 Pupils are appropriately supervised through the effective deployment of staff, including in early years. Current systems for pupil supervision are suitable and likely to continue to meet the standards in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school's health and safety policy requires risk assessment and management and describes the roles and responsibilities of staff in identifying and mitigating risk. There is risk assessment training for all staff. Appropriate and suitably thorough risk assessments are drawn up for all areas of the site, in-school activities, trips and visits. This includes required risk assessments in early years. School leaders check all risk assessments. School leaders have risk assessed the proposed increase in pupil numbers effectively. The process has identified that additional food orders and an additional member of the catering staff will be required. The arrangements are likely to continue to meet the standards in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 A suitable policy covers the required recruitment checks and procedures. This is implemented effectively. All staff, governors and persons engaged in regulated activity are checked and recorded appropriately on the single central register of appointments. Those responsible for carrying out the required recruitment checks and the maintenance of staff records ensure that the necessary checks and evidence are in place prior to staff commencing work in the school. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Acoustics, lighting and water provision are appropriate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.22 The school opened a new classroom block in 2019. This provides an additional five classrooms, a lift for wheelchair access and additional toilets for pupils and adults. This accommodation is likely to be sufficient in the event that the proposed increase in pupil numbers is approved.

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

- 2.23 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]

- 2.24 The school meets the standard.
- 2.25 School leaders and governors, including those with specific responsibilities for safeguarding, demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted. Planning for the proposed increase in pupil numbers is suitable and likely to promote the pupils' continued wellbeing.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the material change to increase total capacity to 330 pupils be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

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