



Material Change Inspection Report

Heathfield House School

July 2024

School's details

School	Heathfield House School			
DfE number	313/6074			
Address	Heathfield House School Heathfield Gardens Chiswick London W4 4JU			
Telephone number	020 8994 3385			
Email address	admin@heathfieldhouse.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Caroline Goodsman			
Proprietor	Dynamite Educational Publishers Limited			
Age range	4 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	148			
	EYFS	20	Y1-6	128
Date of inspection	12 July 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Heathfield House School is co-educational day school located in Chiswick, West London. The school is jointly owned by the headteacher and the school administrator. Both share responsibility for the governance of the school. They are also the proprietors of a nearby, separate nursery. Pupils up to the age of six at the school are educated in an additional property, which includes an early years setting, and pupils aged six to eleven at the main school site. The school has eighteen pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. Three pupils have 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 November 2022.

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 lower the age at which pupils may join the school from 4 to 3 years old. 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 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 2A (relationships and sex education)	Met
Part 1 paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupils' performance)	Met
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school has a suitable curriculum policy which meets the requirements for pupils' education throughout the age range of the school. This includes children in the early years, with the curriculum covering the statutory areas of learning. Provision is appropriate for the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils. This policy is supported by appropriate schemes of work which are implemented effectively. Suitable published resources are employed, for example in the teaching of phonics. The curriculum in the early years enables teachers to prepare children effectively for their future learning.
- 2.3 The curriculum includes a suitable scheme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education which appropriately supports the children's developing understanding of British values and what it means to be part of British society. Children in the early years have appropriate time allocated in their curriculum for them to access a suitably-equipped outdoor area, which is also used for recreation.
- 2.4 Curriculum planning for the proposed Nursery class is being prepared appropriately. Suitable plans use both the existing early years curriculum at the school and planning from an existing class at the proprietors' other establishment.
- 2.5 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

Quality of education provided – relationships and sex education (RSE) [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2A]

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 Pupils at the school are provided with suitable relationships education which has due regard to statutory guidance. Children in the early years are appropriately taught about friendships, families and treating all people equally. From this secure start, older pupils are enabled to develop a thorough understanding of different types of relationships as well as topics such as respect and consent. The oldest pupils learn age-appropriate aspects of sex education such as reproduction.
- 2.8 Parents and carers are consulted suitably regarding the content of RSE lessons, including the vocabulary used, so that they are equipped to answer any questions which arise in the home. Teachers are secure in their knowledge and confidence to teach these lessons because of the effective resources and because they are appropriately supported by leaders.
- 2.9 Curriculum planning of relationships education for the proposed Nursery class is being appropriately prepared using the existing scheme of work for Reception children, which will be adapted to meet the learning needs of younger children.
- 2.10 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Teachers are knowledgeable and experienced, and plan effective lessons which enable pupils to make good progress. Ongoing training and professional development encourage teachers to reflect

appropriately on their teaching, including by observing their colleagues in the classroom. Teachers and teaching assistants in the early years work effectively as a team to continually review the learning experience of the children in their care. Classrooms in the early years, including those which will be allocated to the new Nursery class, are suitably decorated with appropriate displays. These support and encourage the children in their learning. Suitable learning resources and equipment, for example for children to role-play, are made available alongside a range of appropriate reading books.

- 2.13 Teachers effectively implement the school's reward scheme and praise pupils for their work. This suitably fosters motivation and encourages pupils to engage positively with their lessons.
- 2.14 Teachers and teaching assistants in the new Nursery class will join the existing early years team, co-ordinating their lessons and sharing effective practice under the direction of a suitably experienced leader.
- 2.15 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

Quality of education provided – framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 Teachers undertake appropriate, regular assessments of the progress pupils make through a variety of formal and informal methods. In the early years, teachers assess the extent to which children are meeting their early learning goals during each of the three terms effectively. They reference the work that children have completed, which is recorded in books, folders and in photographs. This information is appropriately collated into a learning journey for each child which includes their individual targets for their ongoing learning.
- 2.18 The framework for assessing the performance and progress of children in the Nursery class is planned to be identical to that used to assess children in Reception.
- 2.19 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The school actively promotes and teaches the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.
- 2.22 Suitable teaching encourages pupils to accept responsibility for their actions and to distinguish right from wrong. Pupils learn appropriately about different cultural traditions. The school promotes successfully the importance of being tolerant of different beliefs. Teachers and pupils alike report any inappropriate or intolerant behaviour and leaders act swiftly in response.
- 2.23 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.24 The school meets the requirements.

- 2.25 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

- 2.26 The school meets the standard.
- 2.27 The arrangements for safeguarding the wellbeing of pupils, including children in the early years, are implemented effectively. Specific guidance such as that related to the use of devices capable of taking photographs in the early years setting is appropriately followed.
- 2.28 There is an appropriate team of safeguarding leaders which includes a designated lead practitioner for the early years. Members of the safeguarding team, which includes the proprietors in supporting roles, undertake suitably regular training at the appropriate level. The safeguarding lead has the appropriate seniority and independence to carry out the role effectively.
- 2.29 All staff receive regular and appropriate safeguarding training so that they are aware of the latest statutory guidance such as *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*. This is in addition to their responsibilities in other areas, for example under the Prevent strategy. New members of staff receive a suitable process of induction. This ensures that they are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities from the outset of their employment, as well as their obligations under the school's code of conduct. The safeguarding team regularly checks that staff understand their training and that they know how to spot various types of potential abuse, including child-on-child abuse. Staff know how to report their concerns, whether in relation to pupils or to the behaviour of adults, including the sharing of low-level concerns.
- 2.30 Staff respond quickly to safeguarding concerns and leaders liaise appropriately with external agencies. They seek advice appropriately to ensure that pupils receive effective help when it is needed. Records of safeguarding confirm that this is the case, and that action is taken as appropriate. Safeguarding concerns are recorded methodically and reviewed appropriately. Suitable systems are in place to filter and monitor the pupils' online access whilst at school.
- 2.31 Pupils are taught about staying safe, including their online safety, as part of the curriculum. They express confidence in their learning and understanding. Pupils are confident that they are listened to when they bring a concern to an adult and that their concerns are acted upon. That this occurs is confirmed in records of safeguarding.
- 2.32 The proprietors are trained appropriately in safeguarding. The headteacher is also the proprietor responsible for safeguarding, and in this role monitors safeguarding appropriately and regularly. This includes an appropriate annual review of safeguarding.
- 2.33 It is likely that the standard will continue to be met with the proposed change to the age range in the school.

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

- 2.34 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]

- 2.35 The school meets the standard.

- 2.36 The proprietors and other leaders demonstrate that they have the skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils, including children in the early years. They ensure that the other standards are met consistently.
- 2.37 Leaders ensure that teachers and other staff working with children in the early years have suitable supervision meetings which effectively support their professional development as well as giving an opportunity to reflect on the wellbeing of children and to share any concerns they may have.
- 2.38 The proprietors and other leaders have planned effectively for the proposed material change, appropriately considering the curriculum and practical aspects of the children's daily lives in the early years. It is likely therefore that the standard will continue to be met.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal to lower the age at which pupils may join the school from 4 to 3 years old is approved.

4. Summary of evidence

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