



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Cleve House School

February 2024

School's details

School	Cleve House School			
DfE number	801/6005			
Address	Cleve House School 254 Wells Road Knowle Bristol BS4 2PN			
Telephone number	0117 977 7218			
Email address	office@clevehouseschool.com			
Headteacher	Mrs Clare Fraser			
Proprietor	Cleve House Limited			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	55			
	EYFS	28	Juniors	19
	Seniors	8		
Date of inspection	21 February 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Cleve House School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 2 to 11, situated in Knowle, Bristol. Since September 2023 the school has operated in association with Wotton House International School in Gloucestershire while retaining its individual registration. The proprietor of Wotton House became a joint proprietor with the existing proprietor of Cleve House from September 2023. Both now manage the school, which has recently established an advisory governing board. The school consists of an early years setting, junior school and a group of pupils in the secondary school, in Year 7. The school has identified 12 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Five pupils in the school have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Three pupils have English as an additional language (EAL) and they receive additional support. The school's previous inspections were a focused compliance inspection and an educational quality inspection in March 2020 followed by a progress monitoring inspection in November 2021.

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 the upper pupil age range to 16. 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 assessment)	Met
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision)	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 standards.
- 2.2 The school has an appropriate curriculum for pupils in Years 1 to 6 which is broad and balanced. Provision for children in early years is suitable. The small number of pupils who are in Year 7 follow a bespoke curriculum that is part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) of the International Baccalaureate. The course content is suitable for the age cohort. The school's curriculum meets the needs of the pupils and provides appropriately for their individual abilities and aptitudes, including those with SEND. Appropriate plans and schemes of work are implemented effectively. The school provides suitable personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and an age-appropriate careers education programme for older pupils.
- 2.3 Suitable plans are in place to provide for pupils up to the age of 16. The age range will increase on an annual basis, using the MYP as already taught in Wotton House, with teaching expertise shared between the two schools. The planned curriculum is suitably wide ranging. It provides appropriate opportunities for physical development and learning about global citizenship, and for pupils to gain communication, mathematics, technological, science and language skills.
- 2.4 Current Year 7 pupils were unanimously positive about their lessons. They discussed murder plots in *The Tempest* enthusiastically in an English lesson. They appreciate the continuous assessment nature of the programme and opportunities for project work they receive.
- 2.5 The projected curriculum arrangements for Years 7 to 11 are likely to meet the curriculum requirements.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 The school implements a suitable programme, published to parents, that meets the requirements for relationships education in the junior school and relationships and sex education (RSE) in the secondary school. It is suitably adapted to the age, aptitudes and needs of the pupils at the school and the intended programme for pupils in Years 7 to 11 is appropriate. Parents are suitably consulted and have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education components of the secondary programme.
- 2.8 The projected relationships and sex education programme for Years 7 to 11 are likely to meet the requirements.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 In the junior school, teaching enables pupils to make good progress in relation to their starting points and the school meets the teaching requirements for the range and abilities of the pupils, including children in early years. Teaching in Year 7 is currently supported by temporarily deployed teachers from Wotton House, who have suitable experience in the MYP. Teaching is well planned and demonstrates a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils. Teaching in Year 7 is effectively provided by a form teacher augmented by specialist teachers, where appropriate. Teachers have a clear knowledge of their subject specialisms. Resources are of a good

quality and range enabling the pupils to make good progress. There are effective strategies in place to encourage good behaviour and pupils' progress is monitored effectively.

- 2.11 Teaching encourages pupils' active engagement in their work. Year 7 pupils are enthusiastic in their response to the teaching they receive and feel they are making good progress. The teaching does not discriminate against pupils and does not undermine the British values of democracy. A number of teachers are being trained effectively in preparation for teaching pupils in Years 8 to 11.
- 2.12 The planned teaching for Years 7 to 11 is likely to meet the requirements.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The junior school uses an appropriate framework to assess the progress of pupils up to Year 6, in line with their published policy. Pupils in Year 7 on the MYP undertake a mixture of unit tests and an explorative project at the end of the school year. This is part of the public examination process in the MYP. These measures allow the school to track pupils' progress and to guide pupils on how they can progress further. Assessment data is shared with parents.
- 2.15 The planned assessment arrangements for Years 7 to 11 are likely to continue to meet the requirements of the framework for pupils' performance.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standards.
- 2.17 In the junior school, pupils' social, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is actively promoted across the curriculum. A school-wide audit of elements in the curriculum which reflect the required values helps to promote the personal development of the pupils as responsible, tolerant and law-abiding citizens. This audit has been extended to include projected provision for pupils in Years 7 to 11. This reflects the concepts of the MYP, most particularly in terms of global citizenship and children's rights.
- 2.18 Respect for other people, nurturing healthy relationships and supporting British values are promoted effectively through the current Year 7 curriculum. Planned curriculum maps for Years 7 to 11 provide suitably for PSHE. They promote appropriately respect for those with protected characteristics, fundamental British values, and tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions. Enrichment of the curriculum is provided through visits and trips and a range of visiting speakers. Pupils' self-knowledge and self-esteem is promoted effectively, including through taking up roles of responsibility within the school.
- 2.19 Year 7 pupils are encouraged to engage in the practice of mindfulness to understand their own thought processes and emotions and to guide their behaviour. School enrichment activities which involve whole-school productions, school oracy, speech and drama competitions further promote the required values. The school ensures the preclusion of partisan political views in its teaching and teachers are required to give a balanced view of any matters where political issues are discussed.
- 2.20 The projected programme for pupils in Years 7 to 11 are likely to meet the requirements.

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

Safeguarding policy

2.21 The school meets the requirements.

2.22 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

2.23 The school meets the standard.

2.24 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively, including in the early years. Senior leaders ensure appropriate support for pupils' needs, including pupils with SEND. There is timely and appropriate communication with external agencies when this is required. Records confirm that staff listen to children and take appropriate and timely action when they raise concerns. Pupils expressed confidence that staff do this. Pupils are educated effectively on how to keep safe online and understand how to do so. Filtering and monitoring of technology is appropriate.

2.25 All staff and the proprietors receive regular and appropriate training, including on their Prevent responsibilities. They have been trained on the recent changes in statutory guidance and in online safety. There is a comprehensive induction process which ensures that new staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff in discussion showed familiarity with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B. The headteacher, who is the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), and deputies have sufficient time, status and authority to undertake their roles. They have the appropriate level of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular updates to all staff and opportunities to discuss any changes to safeguarding policies and their implementation.

2.26 Staff are clear about the procedures for reporting any concerns about pupils and they implement these appropriately. They recognise the importance of 'early help' and intervention strategies, including for children in early years and those with SEND. Appropriate and detailed records of any safeguarding concerns are maintained, including of low-level concerns. The two proprietors oversee safeguarding effectively and an advisory board member has recently been appointed who has a safeguarding monitoring role to further support this process. Senior leaders liaise appropriately and promptly both with parents and the local safeguarding partnerships. There are appropriate measures in place to handle any allegations against adults working in the school. Staff understand these and are prepared to report any concerns they may have. The proprietors undertake an annual safeguarding review with due diligence and undertake a review of any safeguarding incidents that may occur.

2.27 The current arrangements in place are likely to continue to meet the safeguarding needs of the increased age profile of pupils attending the school.

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

2.28 The school meets the standards and the requirements.

2.29 Appropriate arrangements ensure that pupils of all ages are suitably supervised and individual needs, such as those with SEND, are taken into account. In the junior school and early years, staff to pupil ratios are appropriate. The school appointed an additional teacher to act as a form teacher for the small Year 7 cohort from September 2023. In addition, the school has increased its complement of teacher assistants and learning support teachers to meet the needs of the school overall, including within Year 7. Guidance for staff involved in supervision duties is suitably detailed and used to ensure that supervision levels are always appropriate. At all times pupils are supervised by qualified and experienced staff who know and understand their needs. Satisfactory staff supervision is in place to ensure appropriate supervision of pupils during all break and lunch time periods, including when they are using the school's play and recreations areas.

- 2.30 The current staffing needs are sufficient to meet the present needs of the school and appropriate arrangements are in place to recruit further staff as needed so that the school is likely to meet the supervision requirements of older pupils.

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

- 2.31 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 and provided to parents on request.

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

- 2.32 The school meets the standards.
- 2.33 The school's leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. The proprietors regularly monitor the required standards and ensure that policies and procedures are appropriate and relevant to the school's needs. Scrutiny of senior management documents and the school's development plan confirms that appropriate consideration has been given to the implications of raising the school's overall age profile to include 16-year-old pupils in due course.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 The current gradual increase in the pupil age profile, on an annual basis, to accommodate the secondary age range up to age 16 is being planned for and monitored appropriately. It is therefore recommended that approval be given to for the school to increase the age intake to include pupils up to the age of 16.

4. Summary of evidence

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