



Material Change Inspection Report

Brighton College Prep Kensington

March 2024

School's details

School	Brighton College Prep Kensington			
DfE number	213/6390			
Address	Brighton College Prep Kensington 10-13 Prince's Gardens, London, SW7 1ND			
Telephone number	020 7591 4622			
Email address	info@brightoncollegeprepkensington.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Lois Gaffney			
Chair of proprietors	Mr James Carroll			
Proprietor	Cognita Schools Limited			
Age range	2 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	274			
	EYFS	67	Juniors	191
	Seniors	16		
Date of inspection	14 March 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Brighton College Prep Kensington is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged between 2 and 13 years. Formerly known as Prince’s Gardens Preparatory School, it was renamed in September 2023. It is located in the Westminster area of London. The school is part of the Cognita Schools Group; oversight is provided through a team appointed by the proprietor. The school comprises the pre-prep and nursery for pupils in early years and Years 1 and 2, and the prep for pupils in Years 3 to 8. The school has 22 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 1 has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 170 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school’s previous inspections were a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2020, followed by two material change inspections in September 2020 and July 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 320 to 360 with effect from September 2024. 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)	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 Implementation of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures is consistently effective. It supports pupils' individual needs throughout the school, including those of children in early years. The arrangements made by leaders are likely to meet the requirements of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.5 The safeguarding team have received appropriate training in accordance with the local safeguarding partnership procedures. Regular updates ensure all staff, including the headteacher, are equipped to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities. As concerns arise, they are promptly recorded and referred to maintain an evaluative oversight of the pupil's wellbeing. The safeguarding team employs early intervention strategies consistently and collaborates with parents and external agencies to offer additional support. Child protection records are appropriately detailed and are held securely.
- 2.6 Pastoral leaders liaise with the safeguarding team to provide specific mentoring for pupils who need additional support with their wellbeing, particularly concerning mental health issues. Pupils learn how to maintain a secure technological environment and stay safe online. Monitoring and filtering of technology is effective.
- 2.7 Records show that the school communicates and refers concerns effectively, including to the key external agencies. Pupils recount having responsible adults readily available to listen to their worries and they feel safe in school.
- 2.8 Staff have a detailed knowledge of the whistleblowing policy and know how to report allegations regarding colleagues and senior leaders; they were clear about contacting the local authority designated officer (LADO) if they felt their concerns were not acted upon.
- 2.9 Proprietors support the school through a management team, appropriately trained in safeguarding, which maintains weekly contact with the headteacher.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 An appropriate health and safety policy is implemented to keep pupils, staff, and visitors safe. All necessary checks are undertaken to ensure the building is maintained safely and staff receive appropriate health and safety training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities. Records are maintained in line with policy. Health and safety considerations have been thoroughly evaluated and updated and are likely to ensure that the school continues to meet requirements with the proposed increase in capacity.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 An appropriate fire risk assessment has been undertaken and it is further supported by an external health and safety review which was undertaken in March 2024. All recommendations have either been completed or are scheduled for completion by the end of the current academic year. An additional fire assembly point is now operational and review has carefully considered the proposed increase in numbers. The school has carried out termly evacuations, and the staff understand their role in managing the procedure. The arrangements for fire safety are likely to continue to meet requirements with the proposed increase in capacity.

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 throughout the school including at break times and through outdoor play arrangements. In September 2023, an effective revised risk assessment for the external grounds and play areas was conducted, with additional supervision measures introduced. Suitable numbers of additional staff are being recruited to ensure supervision. There are suitable ratios in place for the supervision of children in early years. The arrangements in place for the supervision of pupils are likely to ensure the requirements are met with the proposed increase in capacity.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The risk assessment policy provides a detailed process for allocating responsibility, identifying risk, and applying appropriate control measures, with a senior leader having oversight of all risk assessments. All school risk assessments have been reviewed since September 2023. Staff assess all areas of the building accessed by pupils effectively, including specialist areas such as laboratories. Staff in the early years carry out regular, detailed checks to identify and mitigate any risks to children in their care. Risk assessments for educational visits address individual pupils' specific needs, and these complement the individual welfare assessments in place. The arrangements for managing risk are likely to ensure the requirements continue to be met with the proposed increase in capacity.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 Staff involved in recruitment have the appropriate training and understand safe recruitment. All staff, supply staff and governors are checked appropriately before commencing their post. There is an appropriate single central register of checks. Contractors are required to provide detailed records of checks they have undertaken and these sit alongside the additional checks made by the school when arriving on site. The arrangements for ensuring the suitability of all adults in school are likely to continue to meet requirements with the proposed increase in capacity.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standards.
- 2.21 Appropriate toilets and changing facilities, together with suitable provisions to meet the medical needs of pupils, are provided. There are new, separate, changing facilities that meet the requirements

for pupils in Years 7 and 8. Premises are consistently maintained to meet health and safety requirements. Lighting and acoustics are appropriate, and sufficient drinking water is provided to meet the needs of the proposed increase in capacity. The school ensures that pupils have access to well-maintained and suitable outdoor spaces to meet physical education and recreation requirements. Therefore, the school has premises and accommodation that are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in capacity.

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

2.22 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]

2.23 The school meets the standard.

2.24 The proprietors and senior leaders possess the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure that the school meets all the other standards consistently. They prioritise the wellbeing of their pupils and ensure that all safeguarding requirements are fulfilled, including in early years. As a result, the plans in place for the proposed increase in pupil numbers are likely to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its total capacity from 320 to 360 pupils be approved. Planning for the change is effective and most necessary steps to support the change have been taken already.

4. Summary of evidence

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