



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

The Children's House School

February 2024

School's details

School name	The Children's House School			
DfE number	206/6383			
Registered charity number	1113285			
Address	The Children's House Upper School King Henry's Walk Islington London N1 4PB			
Telephone number	020 7354 2113			
Email address	administrator@childrenshouseschool.co.uk			
Headteacher	Ms Ellie Grunewald			
Chair of governors	Ms Danielle Dufey			
Proprietor	The Children's House School			
Age Range	2 to 9			
Number of pupils on roll	108			
	EYFS	31	Upper School	77
Date of inspection	28 February 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The Children’s House School is a co-educational day school based in Islington, north London. It is a charitable trust administered by a single governing body. The school has two sections on separate sites: the early years in Elmore Street for pupils aged two and a half to four; and an upper school in King Henry’s Walk, which also includes some children in early years, and currently educates pupils from Reception to Year 4. The school has 13 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). None has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Twelve pupils speak English as an additional language. The school’s previous inspection was a progress monitoring with material change inspection in September 2023.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the progress monitoring with material change inspection on 26 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 13 (first aid); EYFS 3.25	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 implemented effectively, including in the early years. Those responsible for safeguarding hold positions within the school's senior management team and there is a designated person responsible for safeguarding in early years. These staff have been appropriately trained and are suitably knowledgeable. There is regular sharing of information between the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), her deputies, and other members of staff.
- 2.5 The school has established processes which enable pupils to report concerns to trusted adults. There are 'worry boxes' which pupils can use to raise concerns. In addition, they complete questionnaires which provide leaders with information about pupils' perceptions of school life. Pupils confirmed in discussion that they are able to share concerns with members of staff, confident that they will receive a response. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts promptly to respond to any concerns it receives from or about pupils and takes action when necessary. It liaises appropriately with local agencies. Pupils receive extensive advice about online safety and are confident that they know how to stay safe. Senior leaders and governors ensure that effective systems are implemented to filter and monitor the internet.
- 2.6 Staff are suitably trained in safeguarding. Discussions with them confirmed that this 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. The school has appropriate arrangements for reporting low-level concerns about adults working with children and for handling allegations, including reporting to local agencies.
- 2.7 Governors are trained appropriately in safeguarding. There is formal annual review of safeguarding by the governing body and the DSL. Safeguarding is on the agenda for termly full governing body meetings. The chair of the governing body meets with the head each week and there are informal governor visits several times each term. There are effective procedures to ensure that appropriate and timely checks are made to confirm the suitability of staff. These processes ensure that the proprietor exercises suitable oversight of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – first aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13; EYFS 3.25]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.9 The school has an appropriate policy for the administration of first aid. An appropriate number of staff have received paediatric first aid training to ensure the policy is implemented effectively. Sufficient staff in early years on each site at any one time have a full paediatric first aid qualification.

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

- 2.10 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]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The governors now ensure that school leaders, including those with specific responsibilities for safeguarding and the early years, 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. The action plan required by the previous inspection has been fully implemented.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Summary of findings

- 4.1 The previous inspection indicated that the school has prepared appropriately for an extended upper age range from seven to nine years, as part of a gradual extension to age eleven. There is no evidence that this situation has changed.
- 4.2 The non-compliance at the previous inspection related solely to the EYFS, and has been rectified. Governors and senior leaders now demonstrate appropriate knowledge and oversight.

Recommendation

- 4.3 The request for a material change to extend the school's age range from seven to nine is therefore recommended to be approved.

5. Summary of evidence

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