



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2017



School's details

School	Ditcham Park School			
DfE Number	850/6049			
Registered charity number	285244			
Address	Ditcham Park School Ditcham Park Petersfield Hampshire GU31 5RN			
Telephone number	01730 825659			
Email address	info@ditchampark.com			
Headteacher	Mr Robert Connolly			
Chair of Governors	Mr Christopher Pickett			
Age range	4 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	356			
	Boys	202	Girls	154
	EYFS	11	Juniors	140
	Seniors	205		
Pupils' ability	Nationally standardised test data provided by the school indicate that the ability of the pupils is above average.			
Pupils' needs	The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 93. None of these pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. They require support with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties. No pupils have English as an additional language (EAL).			
History of the school	The school was founded in 1976 on its present site on the South Downs near Petersfield. The present headteacher was appointed in January 2016 on an interim basis.			
Ownership and governing structure	The school is a registered charity with a governing council.			

School structure

The school admits pupils from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year 11. It is structured into three departments: EYFS (Reception), Junior (Years 1-6) and Senior (Years 7-11).

Inspection dates

15 to 16 February 2017

PREFACE

The registration authority for independent schools is the Department for Education (DfE), which directs inspection according to a specified frequency or at any time where the DfE has particular concerns about a school. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and reporting on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards (“the standards”) in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Accordingly, inspection records whether the school meets each of these standards, which are arranged in eight Parts, each of which is divided into separate paragraphs. The inspection of schools that have early years settings not requiring registration similarly records whether the school complies with key provisions of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework, and for registered settings the full range of the Early Years Foundation Stage provisions is considered. Additionally, the inspection reports on the school’s accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the compliance action points set out in the school’s most recent statutory inspection.

All association independent schools will have an inspection within three years from April 2016, in accordance with the Framework. The inspection may be of COMPLIANCE ONLY or of EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE depending on a number of factors, including findings from their most recent inspection. Schools judged not to meet the standards following their inspection may also be subject to a progress monitoring visit before their next routine inspection. The progress monitoring visit will judge whether the school has taken the necessary action to meet any unmet standards and any qualitative concerns identified at their previous inspection.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school’s compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated in the relevant section of the report and the school is required to take the actions specified.

The inspection does not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as:

- (i) the school’s aims;
- (ii) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (iii) compliance with data protection requirements;
- (iv) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features;
- (v) contractual arrangements with parents;
- (vi) an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Where necessary, National Curriculum nomenclature is used to refer to year groups. Links to the full regulations and requirements can be found here: [The Independent School Standards Regulations](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#).

SUMMARY EVALUATION

The school does not meet all of the required standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and associated requirements, and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

PART 1

Quality of education provided

In the junior school, the school uses its own framework to determine attainment, instead of the national framework.

At GCSE in the years 2013 to 2015, performance has been above the national average for maintained schools.

The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.

The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.

PART 2

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.

The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.

PART 3

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.

However, the school has not implemented all required recruitment checks, including prohibition from management. Therefore, the school is failing to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016.

The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 9-16, the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met but those in paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) [safeguarding] are not met.

Action point 1

- The school must ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and that such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State [paragraphs 7(a) and (b)].

PART 4**Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of supply staff.

The school does not make appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff and proprietors, and a register is not kept as required.

The standards relating to the suitability of supply staff in paragraph 19 are met but those relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school in paragraphs 18.(2), 18.(3), 20.(5), 20.(6), 21.(1), 21.(3) and 21.(6) are not met.

Action point 2

- The school must ensure that all required checks on members of staff and proprietors have been carried out [paragraph 18.(2)(a) to (e) and 20.(5)(a) to (6)(b)].

Action point 3

- The school must ensure that all required checks on members of staff and proprietors are completed before each person starts work at the school [paragraph 18.(3)].

Action point 4

- The school must ensure that a register of all checks carried out on members of staff and proprietors is kept as required [paragraphs 21.(1), 21.(3) and 21.(6)]

PART 5**Premises of and accommodation at schools**

Suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities for pupils and appropriate accommodation for their medical needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] are met.

PART 6

Provision of information

A range of information is variously published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. These include details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for those with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. They also include particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, and its results in public examinations, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.

PART 7

Manner in which complaints are handled

Parental complaints are handled through a three-stage process (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). At the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant.

However, parental complaints are not handled effectively. The three-stage process referred to above is not implemented consistently. Time scales for each stage are not clear. Records are not kept appropriately and do not consistently log any action taken, or indicate whether or not a complaint is successful.

The standards relating to the handling of complaints in sub-paragraphs 33, 33(c) and 33(j) are not met

Action point 5

- **The proprietor must ensure that a complaints procedure is drawn up and effectively implemented which deals with the handling of complaints from parents of pupils [paragraph 33].**

Action point 6

- **The school must ensure that the school's arrangements set out clear timescales for the management of a complaint [paragraph 33(c)].**

Action point 7

- **The school must ensure that a written record is kept of all formal complaints, and whether they are resolved following a formal procedure, or proceed to a panel hearing [paragraph 33(j)(i)].**

Action point 8

- **The school must ensure that a written record is kept of action taken by the school as a result of formal complaints (regardless of whether they are upheld [paragraph 33(j)(ii)]).**

PART 8

Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proprietor does not ensure that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

The standards relating to leadership and management of the school in paragraphs 34.1(a), (b) and (c) are not met.

Action point 9

- **The proprietor must ensure that those having leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34.(1)(a)].**

Action point 10

- **The proprietor must ensure that those having leadership and management responsibilities fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34.(1)(b)].**

Action point 11

- **The proprietor must ensure that those having leadership and management responsibilities actively promote the well-being of the pupils [paragraph 34.(1)(c)].**

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The inspectors observed a small sample of lessons, conducted formal interviews with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with teachers, senior members of staff and with the chairman of council. They attended registration sessions and an assembly. Inspectors visited the facilities for sick or injured pupils. The responses of parents and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Andrew Farren

Reporting inspector

Mr Adrian Dellar

Compliance team inspector (Deputy head, HMC school)