



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

HIGH MARCH SCHOOL

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

14 TO 15 JUNE 2016



School's Details

Full Name of School	High March School
DfE Number	825/6019
Address	High March School 23 Ledborough Lane Beaconsfield Buckinghamshire HP9 2PZ
Telephone Number	01494 675186
Email Address	office@highmarch.bucks.sch.uk
Headmistress	Susan Clifford
Chairman of Governors	Colin Hayfield
Age Range	3 to 11
Total Number of Pupils	330
Gender of Pupils	Girls
Pupils' Ability	Standardised test data provided by the school indicate that the ability of the pupils is above the national average.
Pupils' Needs	The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities is 25, including dyslexia and specific learning difficulties. None has a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. One pupil has English as an additional language and receives support.

School's Details

History of the School	The school was founded in 1926 and has gradually expanded to its current size.
Ownership and Governing Structure	The school's owners are supported by an advisory board of governors with committees for education, finance, health and safety, school travel and community.
School Structure	Junior House takes girls from Nursery to Year 2 and a maximum of four boys in each of the two Upper Nursery classes for a period of one year only. Upper School contains girls in Years 3 to 6.
Inspection Dates	14 to 15 June 2016
Other Useful Information:	i) The school is situated in three houses in close proximity, set in four acres of grounds. ii) Since 1948, the school has been owned by members of the same family.

About the Inspection

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.

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 un-met standards and any concerns about quality 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 meets almost all of the required standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and associated requirements. In order to meet all the standards, the school should take immediate action to remedy the deficiency as detailed below.

PART 1

Quality of education provided

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

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 pupil 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

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety. 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.

The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 7.(a) and (b), 8.(a) and (b), 9.(a) to (c), 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16, the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 (accessibility plan) and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met but that relating to paragraph 13, provision for first aid, is not met.

The standard for first aid is not met, including for the Early Years Foundation Stage, because, although first aid is administered in a timely and competent manner, parts of the written first-aid policy relating to the administration of medicines are not implemented effectively.

Action point 1

- **The school must ensure that its policy for the administration of medicines is implemented correctly [paragraph 13].**

PART 4

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.

The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17-21] are met.

PART 5

Premises of and accommodation at schools

Suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities for pupils and appropriate accommodation for their medical and therapy 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, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8

Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proprietor ensures 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 standard relating to leadership and management of the school [Paragraph 34] is met.

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 governors and the proprietors. They observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended registration sessions and assemblies. 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

Mrs Paula Talman

Compliance Team Inspector
(Medical and Pastoral Lead , IAPS school)

Mrs Irene Collins

Early Years Team Inspector
(Former Head of Early Years, IAPS school)