



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

FOCUSED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

SOUTH LEE SCHOOL

MARCH 2017



School's details

School	South Lee School			
DfE Number	935/6025			
Registered charity number	310491			
Address	South Lee School Nowton Road Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2BT			
Telephone number	01284 754654			
Email address	office@southlee.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Mervyn Watch			
Chair of governors	Mr Stephen Honeywood			
Age range	2 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	215			
	Boys	120	Girls	95
	EYFS	60	Pre-prep	50
	Prep	105		
Pupils' ability	Nationally standardised test data provided by the school indicate that the ability of the pupils is broadly average.			
Pupils' needs	The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is forty-five. No pupil has a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. They require support with difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. Twelve pupils have English as an additional language (EAL), none of whom require additional support.			
History of the school	South Lee School was founded in 1961 by several parents who purchased the original site in a semi-rural location on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds, a Suffolk market town. The current headmaster took up his post in September 2015, and a deputy head and head of pre-prep have recently been appointed.			

Ownership and governing structure	The school operates as a charitable trust, of which all parents are trust members. The charitable trust is overseen by a board of governors, whose current chair was appointed in January 2017.
School structure	The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) caters for children aged 2 to 5 years in the Nursery and Reception. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 3 are taught in the pre-prep department, and the prep department is for pupils from Year 4 to Year 8.
Other useful information	The school does not cater for boarders. Since the last inspection a new sports and performance centre has been opened, and ground that includes a cricket facility and an environmental area has been acquired.
Inspection dates	7 to 8 March 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 un-met 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. In this focused compliance inspection, key regulations and standards have been inspected in detail. These are the regulations on safeguarding; measures to guard against bullying; arrangements for pupils’ health and safety, arrangements to check the suitability of staff; the provision of information to parents; the handling of parents’ complaints; and other related aspects of leadership and management. The remaining standards and requirements are deemed to be met unless evidence to the contrary has been found.

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, 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 deficiencies 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 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

Almost all 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; 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.

Thorough arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, and all staff have had the required recruitment checks, the timing of these does not always pay due regard to current statutory guidance. The school does not always ensure that all other required checks have been completed on individuals who start regulated work before their DBS certificates are available.

The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 6 and 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 relating to safeguarding [paragraphs 7(a) and (b)] are not met.

Action point 1

- **The school must ensure that all recruitment checks required by current statutory guidance are completed before staff commence employment at the school [paragraphs 7(a) and (b)].**

Action point 2

- **Where the school allows an individual to start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available, they must ensure that all other required checks have been completed [paragraphs 7(a) and (b)].**

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 and changing 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, 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 proprietors 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 standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] is met.

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The inspectors conducted formal interviews with pupils. They held discussions with teachers, senior members of staff and with a group of governors. 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

Mrs Serena Alexander

Reporting inspector

Mrs Samantha Ransom

Compliance team inspector (Assistant bursar, IAPS and HMC school)