



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Additional Inspection Report

Herne Hill School

January 2023

School's details

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|---------------------------------|---|-----|----------------|----|
| School | Herne Hill School | | | |
| DfE number | 210/6375 | | | |
| Address | Herne Hill School 127 Herne Hill Herne Hill London SE24 9LY | | | |
| Telephone number | 020 7274 6336 | | | |
| Email address | enquiries@hernehillschool.co.uk | | | |
| Headteacher | Mrs Ngaire Telford | | | |
| Proprietor | Mr Dominik Magyar | | | |
| Age range | 2 to 7 | | | |
| Number of pupils on roll | 320 | | | |
| | EYFS | 223 | Juniors | 97 |
| Date of inspection | 25 January 2023 | | | |

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Herne Hill School is an independent co-educational day school in the London borough of Southwark. It is made up of two sites. The main site is a former vicarage, with additional facilities built in the last 20 years. There is an adjacent area of woodland for outside learning and recreation. The dedicated kindergarten building is a late Victorian property renovated and opened in 2021. The school is overseen by a single proprietor. Two thirds of the pupils are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The school has identified 30 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Four pupils have an education, health and care plan. Twenty-seven pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in March 2020, followed by a material change visit in September 2020.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) which 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 14 (supervision) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment) | Met |
| Part 4, paragraphs 18-21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietor) | 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 The school leaders ensure that the policy is implemented effectively to safeguard the welfare of pupils, including children in the EYFS. Pupils said in discussion that they can talk to trusted adults within the school if they feel in any way unhappy or unsafe. They are confident that the school will listen to them and take action to support them if necessary. That this happens effectively is confirmed by the records of safeguarding incidents which the school maintains appropriately and keeps confidential.
- 2.5 Senior leaders ensure that they act in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. Links with local safeguarding partners are effective and the school follows the advice they receive. Staff showed a robust understanding of the code of conduct for staff and confirmed their willingness to report any concerns they might have about adults working in the school. They also confirmed in discussion that they are confident with the school's whistleblowing procedures. Staff are effectively trained, including those with designated safeguarding responsibilities. All demonstrate a suitable awareness of the safeguarding needs of vulnerable pupils and other groups, including children in the EYFS. Staff who engage in personal care in the EYFS are appropriately trained and volunteers are not involved in this work. Senior leaders ensure that the welfare of children in the EYFS is monitored and checked through effective individual supervision sessions with staff which meet the requirements of statutory guidance.
- 2.6 The proprietor maintains effective oversight of safeguarding. They provide for appropriate recruitment checks to be undertaken. In particular, they now ensure that suitable references are taken up for all those involved with pupils where required by statutory guidance. They also ensure that a formal application process is used for all applicants for roles as staff or volunteers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 Pupils are properly supervised at all times through appropriate deployment of school staff, both in lessons and during unstructured time, breaks and lunch. Supervision in the EYFS meets the requirements of the EYFS Statutory Framework by ensuring appropriate ratios are maintained of staff to children. Only those staff qualified to do so and who have been checked appropriately engage in personal care of children.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The proprietor ensures that leaders identify risks from hazards in school and take suitable steps to reduce them. In addition, leaders ensure that they assess the needs of any pupils involved in a

safeguarding incident. They identify the care needed to mitigate any identified risk or needs. They subsequently monitor the implementation of these measures to support the pupil concerned. Senior leaders make appropriate adjustments to policy and practice to mitigate the likelihood of a repetition of any such incident.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The proprietor ensures that school leaders implement appropriate recruitment procedures for all new staff and volunteers. All required checks are carried out effectively before any employee starts work or a volunteer has contact with children. All checks are recorded suitably on a single central register of appointments.

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

- 2.13 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]

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers in the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge so that they promote the wellbeing of the pupils and that the other standards are met. They engage in effective review after any serious incident, improve procedures appropriately and ensure that statutory guidance is followed.

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. Summary of evidence

4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Bill Burn

Reporting inspector

Mr Desmond Dunne

Assistant reporting inspector