



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Additional Inspection Report

Moor Park School

April 2023

School's details

School	Moor Park School		
DfE number	893/6015		
Early Years registration number	E294910		
Registered charity number	511800		
Address	Moor Park School Richards Castle Ludlow Shropshire SY84DZ		
Telephone number	01584 872342		
Email address	head@moorpark.org.uk		
Headmaster	Mr Brendan Brady		
Chair of governors	Mr Julian Rogers-Coltman		
Proprietor	Moor Park Charitable Trust Ltd		
Age range	0 to 13		
Number of pupils on roll	219		
	Day pupils	205	Boarders 14
	Tick Tock Nursery	47	Pre-Prep 59
	Prep	113	
Date of inspection	25 April 2023		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Moor Park School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged three months to 13 years. It was founded in 1964 on its current site in Richards Castle, Ludlow. The school is a charitable trust, administered by a board of governors. It comprises three sections: the nursery, which includes a registered Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting for children aged three months to 3 years; pre-prep, for children and pupils aged 3 to 7 years; and prep, for pupils aged 7 to 13 years. There are two boarding houses situated on the school site, which cater for flexible and full boarding, available from Year 3. The school has 50 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). There are no pupils who have an education, health and care plan. There are 20 pupils for whom English is an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in October 2021, followed by a progress monitoring inspection in May 2022

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), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework. A concurrent inspection of the registered part of the EYFS setting was undertaken by Ofsted and a separate report published. This inspection included the non-registered part of the setting where it was mainly focused.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying); NMS 16	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 9	Met
Part 3, paragraph 13 (first aid); NMS 7	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 9	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and the proprietor); NMS 19	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure); NMS 14	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding and safeguarding of boarders [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8]

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 standards.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively in line with current statutory guidance. This ensures that the school provides appropriate support for pupils' needs, including listening to children, giving a response and taking appropriate action when concerns are raised. Pupils stated this to be the case and it is confirmed in records of safeguarding. All staff have received suitable training on recent changes to statutory guidance and online safety. New staff complete an appropriate induction process to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes details of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B; the staff code of conduct; whistleblowing procedures; procedures for children missing education; and the school's behaviour policy. They complete an online quiz to secure their knowledge and understanding following training. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles, and have appropriate levels of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular informal updates to staff and opportunities for discussion on any changes to safeguarding policy and its implementation.
- 2.5 Staff have a full understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, including for any pupils with SEND and the particular needs of children in the EYFS. They recognise the importance of 'early help' strategies, know how to report any concerns about pupils or other staff and adults working with children, and do so appropriately. They understand the varied types of child-on-child abuse and the seriousness of such behaviours. Appropriate records for safeguarding concerns are maintained, which are regularly monitored by the DSL. These show timely and appropriate liaison with both parents and local agencies. The governing body are suitably trained. They undertake an annual safeguarding review with knowledge and due diligence, demonstrating rigour in their oversight of arrangements. This includes providing for suitable checks on staff recruited to work in the school. They provide suitable support and challenge.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10; NMS 16]

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 The school has a suitable policy in place to prevent bullying in so far as is practicable. It stresses the seriousness of bullying both physical emotional and online. It sets out the procedures to follow in the case of any incidents and staff are provided with training for the management of bullying cases. Records are kept appropriately to enable patterns to be identified and action taken in a timely manner.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 9]

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The school has developed an appropriately detailed written health and safety policy which covers the areas suggested by the relevant health and safety laws. Senior leaders ensure that this is fully implemented including in playground areas. The well-established health and safety committee meets regularly to monitor and address all aspects of health and safety for the site necessary to ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe. This includes appropriate security measures. New staff are provided with appropriate health and safety information and training through the induction process. Annual specialist health and safety inspections and reports provide detail of areas requiring improvement and action is taken where appropriate. The governing body oversees these processes effectively.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – first aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13; NMS 7]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 Senior leaders have drawn up an appropriate first aid policy which is implemented fully and is made available on the school website. First aid training for staff is up to date and reviewed and updated regularly. Staff working in the EYFS have completed suitable paediatric first aid training delivered by a recognised provider and there is always a suitably trained person onsite and accompanying trips. Record keeping of accidents, or any incidents of contagious infections is systematic. It is reviewed regularly to identify any patterns and action is taken appropriately to guard against further incidents. Management of accidents is appropriate and contact with parents following any incident is appropriately fulfilled in line with the published procedures.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 9]

- 2.12 The school meets the standards.
- 2.13 A suitable risk assessment policy and comprehensive arrangements are in place to ensure that risks are appropriately identified, and action taken to reduce risk across the school site. All staff who are involved in producing risk assessments for activities, trips off site, or particular areas of the school, including the EYFS, receive appropriate training on induction, and this is updated when necessary. The planning process for off-site visits, which includes a detailed process of risk assessment, has been effectively developed and is implemented consistently and effectively. Suitable assessment is made where new risks are identified. Senior staff oversee the risk-assessment process, sign off the assessments and evaluate their effectiveness.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19]

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Senior staff and governors undertake a regular process of review of the recruitment process including of the management of the single central register of appointments. Visitors to boarding accommodation are appropriately supervised.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standards.

- 2.17 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.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33; NMS 14]

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 The school publishes an appropriate complaints policy on their website. This is written in line with regulatory requirements. A three-stage process sets out suitable timescales for the management of complaints and the school adheres to these. Appropriate records are maintained electronically which set out at which stage a complaint has been resolved and what action has been taken, whether or not the complaint is upheld. All records relating to individual complaints are kept confidential except where they are required to be reviewed by a body conducting an inspection. Details about how to contact Ofsted are made available to parents in the EYFS through the complaints policy.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34; NMS 2]

- 2.20 The school meets the standards.
- 2.21 The school's leadership and management demonstrate good knowledge and skills and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. Proprietorial review is suitably thorough and supportive to ensure that policies are effectively implemented and actively promote the wellbeing of all pupils including boarders.

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 the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 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 chair of governors. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Diane Gardiner

Reporting inspector

Mrs Valerie Holloway

Assistant reporting inspector