



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for an Additional Inspection

LVS School Hassocks

April 2022

School's details

School	LVS Hassocks			
DfE number	938/6267			
Registered charity number	230011			
Address	LVS Hassocks London Road Sayers Common West Sussex BN6 9HT			
Telephone number	01273 832901			
Email address	info@lvs-hassocks.org.uk			
Principal	Ms Jen Weeks			
Chair of governors	Mr Mike Clist			
Age range	8 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	66			
	Seniors	51	Sixth Form	15
Date of visit	5 April 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 LVS Hassocks is an independent day school which provides specialist education for pupils with a diagnosis of autism. The school opened in 2009 and is set on 40 acres of land in Sayers Common. It is governed by trustees of the founding charity. All pupils at the school require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and all have an education, health and care plan. Three pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in November 2019.

Purpose of the visit

- 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).

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 13 (first aid)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection finding

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's safeguarding policy and associated arrangements are implemented effectively to ensure a culture of listening to pupils. In particular, the school watches out for any concerns pupils may have which they have difficulty verbalising. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn to for support. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and that appropriate action is taken where necessary. Such responses and action are suitably mindful of the particular special educational needs of each pupil. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding. Records show that the school takes appropriate action to meet the needs of children in need or at risk. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the school has sufficient filtering and monitoring procedures in place to ensure appropriate use of technology at all times.
- 2.5 The school liaises effectively with local agencies. All staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed. Staff receive effective training in the Prevent strategy and relevant incidents are handled effectively. The safeguarding policy contains appropriate guidance to staff on raising low-level concerns and this guidance is implemented. Staff understand the different types of child-on-child abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct, including with regard to physical actions and use of language, and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise.
- 2.6 The governing body has appropriate measures in place to ensure that should a specific safeguarding concern arise it is handled effectively. Supervision of pupils is considered to be a part of safeguarding by the school and proprietors. This is implemented and the effectiveness of supervision arrangements is included as part of regular reviews of practice. The proprietors maintain consistent and sufficiently rigorous oversight to ensure safeguarding is managed correctly. This is done through regular visits to the school and meetings with key staff by the nominated safeguarding governor, who reports regularly to the full board.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school ensures the effective promotion of good behaviour amongst pupils, by effectively implementing its well-being policy. This sets out how behaviour between pupils is managed, including the application of sanctions where appropriate. Strategies are applied effectively in relation to each pupil's individual needs, which are taken into account within risk assessments for individual pupils. A record of serious sanctions is kept. The school rejects the use of corporal punishment.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school has a suitable anti-bullying policy which is implemented effectively and regularly reviewed to prevent bullying in so far as is reasonably practicable. Staff are appropriately trained to recognise bullying in the context of the pupils' individual needs and pupils are given appropriate guidance about bullying. Suitable records are kept of any incidents of bullying and these are monitored to identify any trends or patterns.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Risk assessments for individual pupils are effectively implemented and monitored to maintain their health, safety and welfare in so far as is reasonably practicable. Accidents are handled appropriately.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The proprietor ensures that the written first aid policy is effectively implemented. First aid is administered in a timely and competent manner taking into account the needs of all. All actions are suitably recorded, monitored and reviewed, including those reported to external agencies. Where physical injury is sustained in an accident, such as a cut, first aid is administered effectively and recorded.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 The school ensures appropriate levels of pupil supervision throughout the school day both inside the school building and when pupils are in the school grounds. This supervision takes due account of the enhanced need for supervision given the particular educational needs of all pupils at the school. Pupils confirm that they are always able to locate a nearby member of staff easily and that staff are swift to respond when needed.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy and ensures appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified. All pupils have an individual risk assessment which reflects their particular needs. All risk assessments are reviewed regularly by management.

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

- 2.19 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]

2.20 The school meets the standard.

2.21 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

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