



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Additional Inspection Report

Wotton House International School

June 2023

School's details

School name	Wotton House International School			
DfE number	916/6006			
Address	Wotton House International School Horton Road Gloucester Gloucestershire GL1 3PR			
Telephone number	01452 764248			
Email address	info@wottonhouseschool.co.uk			
Principal	Dr Daniel Sturdy			
Proprietor	International Village Education Ltd			
Chair of proprietors	Dr Daniel Sturdy			
Age Range	7 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	90			
	Prep	27	Seniors	63
Date of inspection	19 June 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Wotton House International School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 7 to 16 years. It is situated in Gloucester. The school was founded in September 2016 and is owned by International Village Education Ltd. It is an International Baccalaureate School teaching the Middle Years Programme. The owner of this company is the proprietor of the school and the school's principal. The principal and another family member are named directors and are responsible for overseeing the school's operation. Additional guidance on governance is provided through the school's advisory board. The school has 39 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 14 have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. None of the three pupils who speak English as an additional language require support. The school's previous inspection was a material change inspection in December 2022 to assess the school's application to increase its age range.

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).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 2, 3 and 4 (curriculum, teaching and framework for pupils' performance)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 15 (admissions and attendance registers)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (manner in which complaints are to be handled)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum, teaching and framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4]

- 2.1 The school meets the standards.
- 2.2 The curriculum is suitably documented and supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work. It takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with SEND and those with an EHC plan. The teaching enables all pupils, including those with particular needs, to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources.
- 2.3 There is a suitable framework for assessing pupils' performance. There are regular, documented reviews of pupils with SEND which are used to plan further support strategies for their learning effectively.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.4 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.5 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

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support to ensure the welfare of pupils.
- 2.8 Safeguarding procedures are implemented to safeguard children at risk and those in particular need. Staff show effective understanding of their responsibilities, including with regard to child-on-child abuse and any such abuse linked to those with protected characteristics. Staff show appropriate awareness of the staff code of conduct, whistleblowing policy and safeguarding procedures and are confident to use them. They have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting issues. Staff are appropriately informed about issues that put pupils at risk. The particular risks to pupils with SEND and on trips are identified and mitigated. Staff understand that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary. They take appropriate action when needed.
- 2.9 The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse and has been reviewed effectively in line with the latest statutory guidance. It provides appropriate guidance regarding possible abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil, including linking such abuse to bullying. The advisory board and school leaders review the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements regularly, and annually receive an external audit from a local safeguarding partner. Discussions with staff, pupils and an inspection of safeguarding records confirm that pupils receive suitable help to address risks. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is of sufficient seniority and is able to act independently as circumstances require. They and deputy DSLs act on and refer to appropriate agencies the early signs of risk or need and monitor any potential for radicalisation. They ensure the school listens to the views of individual pupils as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. This, too, is confirmed in written evidence from safeguarding records. All behavioural issues are treated as potential safeguarding concerns and addressed effectively. Provision is made for pupils who need quiet space during the school day, and its use is effectively monitored. Pupils receive guidance on staying safe and show understanding of what

they have been taught, including in relation to e-safety. Monitoring and filtering of technology is effective. The physical and mental health of all pupils are given a suitably high priority.

- 2.10 The safeguarding policy gives contact details for required local safeguarding partners. The training for those with specific safeguarding responsibilities is in line with local requirements and statutory advice and is up to date. Training in safeguarding for teaching and non-teaching staff is of sufficient quality and frequency. Directors and members of the advisory board are trained appropriately in safeguarding.
- 2.11 Suitable arrangements for handling allegations against staff, senior leaders or the directors, and potential misconduct, are included in safeguarding procedures; they include seeking immediate advice from the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO). The school understands its role in reporting any person to relevant regulatory bodies if circumstances require it.
- 2.12 Recruitment procedures are in line with statutory advice and are followed with suitable rigour. Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are outlined within the safeguarding policy and detailed in a separate recruitment policy. Those responsible for recruitment decisions have received appropriate training.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 A suitable behaviour policy is in place and is implemented effectively. There is a clear code of conduct for pupils. Arrangements recognise the particular needs of individual pupils, and appropriate adjustments are made. Sanctions are applied appropriately and proportionately. Records of misbehaviour are detailed, allowing trends to be identified and the effectiveness of sanctions to be evaluated. All incidents of misbehaviour between pupils are considered as potential bullying and/or safeguarding issues, and trends analysed.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 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. Senior leaders and governors confirmed that there has been no change in arrangements since the previous inspection. Systematic records ensure steps are taken to monitor any health and safety issues. The site is secure and all teaching accommodation is suitable for pupils.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 Pupils are properly supervised by qualified and trained staff. Suitable protocols are in place to identify immediately if pupils do not appear at expected lessons or activities and find their whereabouts. Records show that these are implemented effectively. Procedures are reviewed in line with known incidents. The school's curriculum promotes the use of outdoor space and off-site activities, and supervision levels for these are appropriate, including the provision of one-to-one support if necessary.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – admission and attendance registers [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 15]

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.

2.20 Admission and attendance registers are maintained as required.

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

2.21 The school meets the standard.

2.22 The school's risk assessment policy clearly describes appropriate lines of responsibility for identifying and managing risk and the approaches to be taken to do so. There is an effective culture of assessing risk to pupils in any decision taken, in particular regarding individual pupils about whom behavioural or safeguarding concerns have been identified. Appropriate assessments are also made for the needs of individual pupils both while in school and in the surrounding area. In all these areas, appropriate action is taken to mitigate risks identified and suitable revisions are made where review of any incidents shows this to be necessary.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18]

2.23 The school meets the requirements.

2.24 All the required checks on staff are carried out and completed before they take up their posts.

Premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23-29]

2.25 The school meets the standards.

2.26 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Records and discussions with staff confirm that any maintenance issues are identified and promptly addressed. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

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

2.27 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]

2.28 The school meets the standard.

2.29 The school's complaints procedure is available on the school website. It provides for concerns and complaints to be considered on an informal basis; the establishment of a formal procedure for a complaint to be made in writing; provision for a hearing before a panel which includes an independent member and allows for parent to be accompanied; provision for the panel to make findings and recommendations; and for a confidential record to be kept of findings. Records of complaints show that the school follows its own procedures appropriately. Whether or not complaints have been upheld, the school undertakes a detailed review to identify any lessons to be learned from them and implements any consequent recommendations effectively.

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

2.30 The school meets the standard.

- 2.31 Appropriate procedures are implemented which allow the senior leaders and the proprietor to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements effectively and monitor compliance with standards and other statutory advice, including those concerned with safeguarding and risk assessment. In this way the leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.

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 no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mr Stephen Cole

Reporting inspector

Mr Matthew Lovett

Assistant reporting inspector