



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**Boundary Oak School**

**July 2023**

## School's details

<b>School name</b>	Boundary Oak School		
<b>DfE number</b>	850/6047		
<b>Address</b>	Boundary Oak School Roche Court Fareham Hants PO17 5BL		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01329 280955		
<b>Email address</b>	office@boundaryoak.co.uk		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Sophie Savage		
<b>Chair of proprietors</b>	Mr James Polansky		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Quo Vadis Education Ltd.		
<b>Age Range</b>	2 to 16		
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	450		
	<b>Boarders</b>	25	<b>Day pupils</b> 425
	<b>EYFS</b>	42	<b>Pre-prep</b> 64
	<b>Prep</b>	99	<b>Seniors</b> 245
<b>Date of visit</b>	6 July 2023		

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Boundary Oak School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school. It is situated in Fareham, Hampshire. The school is organised into the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children aged two to four; the pre-prep for pupils aged five to eight; the prep school for pupils aged nine to eleven; and the senior school for those aged twelve to sixteen. Boarding provision is provided in one boarding house for pupils from the age of eleven. In 2014, the school came under the ownership of Quo Vadis Education Ltd, who are the registered proprietors. The school has 59 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), one of whom has an education, health and care plan. There are 14 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was an additional inspection including material change in May 2022.

### Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase the total pupil numbers from 450 to 550 and to temporarily, for one year, increase the age range from 16 to 17. The inspection 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. The proposed increase does not envisage an increase in the number of boarders.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 9	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 10	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 20	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 9	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 19	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 30 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [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 Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for the needs of pupils, including children in the EYFS and boarders. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.5 Staff demonstrate appropriate knowledge of safeguarding procedures including those for children missing in education, the code of conduct and the whistleblowing policy. The procedures are implemented effectively to safeguard all pupils. Senior leaders have effectively considered the safeguarding aspects of a temporary increase in the maximum age of pupils to 17. Staff show an understanding of their responsibilities and have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting potential issues, including any related to child-on-child abuse. Staff know who to go to if they receive a disclosure or have a concern and are aware that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary. The safeguarding policy provides appropriate contact details for local agencies.
- 2.6 Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are outlined in the policy and all appropriate checks on the suitability of staff, proprietors and other adults are completed before they take up their role. Training in safeguarding for staff is of sufficient frequency and quality and those with specific safeguarding responsibilities have training in line with statutory advice and local requirements. Records of training attendance are kept centrally.
- 2.7 Discussions with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) confirm that pupils and staff receive training on how to address issues if they arise. The school has suitable systems, both electronic and manual, in place to listen to the views of the pupils to ensure they are heard. The DSL acts immediately on any early signs of risk and monitors pupils through various systems which are shared with the staff and proprietors as appropriate. Pupils confirm that they feel listened to by the school, as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, that they receive a response if they raise a concern, and that action will be taken if needed. Records of safeguarding confirm that this happens in practice. Referrals to children's services and the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO) are appropriately detailed and timely and the school has a suitable relationship with outside agencies. Safeguarding and behavioural records are comprehensive. Pupils are supported in learning how to keep themselves safe, including online, through monitoring and the filtering of technology.
- 2.8 Suitable arrangements are in place for handling allegations against staff and are included within the safeguarding policy. Records show that the school seeks immediate advice from the LADO where required. Detailed records show that procedures are followed, and suggested actions are undertaken promptly. The school understands its role in reporting any person to the relevant regulatory bodies where necessary. There is effective oversight by the proprietors, who are suitably trained in safeguarding. They carry out an annual review of safeguarding.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 There is a suitable health and safety policy which is implemented effectively by the school, ensuring that it complies with all relevant laws. Records show that testing of utilities are systematically undertaken. Training in health and safety is comprehensive throughout the school and the recording of accidents is co-ordinated through the medical facility. Senior leaders and members of the proprietorial body monitor any trends and take steps to mitigate incidents. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 10]**

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school has an effective fire prevention strategy and a suitable fire risk assessment and action plan. Actions required by the most recent plan have been completed effectively. Fire risk assessment of all buildings is undertaken by a suitably qualified person. Fire procedures are understood by staff and pupils, who all have training provided. Regular fire drills are undertaken and recorded. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 20]**

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 Pupils at all ages in the school are properly supervised by suitably qualified and trained staff, including outside of lesson times. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The school makes effective risk assessments for buildings and educational visits as well as aspects such as sport and activities. All risk assessments are suitably clear and include approaches to be taken to mitigate the risks identified. There are specific plans to assess risk for individual, vulnerable pupils which are managed through the DSL. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 All the required checks on staff, contractors and members of the proprietorial body are carried out and completed before they take up their positions. A suitable register of appointments is kept. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

**Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation; medical facilities; maintenance; acoustics; lighting; water supply and outdoor space; boarding accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23–30]**

- 2.19 The school meets the standards.
- 2.20 Suitable toilet and changing accommodation and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to the standard required; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; and water provision is adequate. There is suitable outdoor space for physical education and outdoor play. Boarders have suitable accommodation. The proprietors have added a number of buildings over the previous five years and no additional building is needed to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils.

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

- 2.21 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; NMS 2]**

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 Suitable practices and procedures are implemented which allow senior leaders and the proprietorial body to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements and monitor compliance with the standards and other statutory advice including regarding safer recruitment. The leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are consistently met. Planning for the proposed increase in numbers is managed effectively within the current structures of the school. It ensures that the provision is likely to continue to actively promote the wellbeing of all pupils.

### **3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection**

#### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its numbers to 550 and temporarily increase the age range to 17, be approved as planning for the proposed increase across all areas is suitable.

## 4. Summary of evidence

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

### Inspectors

Miss Sue Duff

Reporting inspector