



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Churcher's College

June 2023

School's details

College	Churcher's College			
DfE number	850/6040			
Registered charity number	1173833			
Address	Churcher's College Ramshill Petersfield Hampshire GU31 4AS			
Telephone number	01730 263033			
Email address	enquiries@churcherscollege.com			
Headteacher	Mr Simon Williams			
Chair of governors	Mr Charles Strick			
Proprietor	Churcher's College			
Age range	3 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	1284			
	EYFS	42	Juniors	209
	Seniors	721	Sixth Form	312
Date of inspection	30 June 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Churcher's College is a co-educational day school. The senior school, for pupils aged 11 to 18, includes a sixth form and is situated on the outskirts of Petersfield, Hampshire. The infant and junior school for pupils aged 3 to 11, which includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting, is in the village of Liphook, approximately 8 miles away. The school is a charitable company limited by guarantee and the governors are its trustees. The school has identified 74 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil has an educational, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for two pupils.

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 capacity of the school from a total of 1320 to 1446 pupils. The inspection 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, paragraphs 11 (health and safety) and 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraphs 14 (supervision) and 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	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 has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.2 The school meets the standard.
- 2.3 Safeguarding procedures are suitably implemented in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) 2022, including in the EYFS. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs work effectively together across the age range in both infant and junior, and senior schools to ensure pupils' wellbeing. In discussions both junior and senior school pupils confirmed that they can raise any concerns freely and that, if they do so, they receive a timely and appropriate response. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts swiftly to respond to any concerns about pupils and that it refers concerns appropriately to local agencies. Any incidences of child-on-child abuse, including those of sexualised or racist behaviour have received an appropriate response. Pupils receive suitable advice about online safety and the school has effective systems in place to monitor and filter internet access. Records of safeguarding are kept with suitable care and are monitored for establishing any trends or patterns.
- 2.4 Staff are regularly trained and confirmed that they are updated with necessary information. New staff described an effective induction process. Staff training records for safeguarding are suitably kept and any absentees are quickly followed up and extra sessions provided. An effective low-level concerns log is kept and this shows that staff readily use the procedure, including self-referring when appropriate. Staff complete Prevent training annually. Staff understand how to report any allegations about adults who work with children, should it be necessary, and confirm that they would not hesitate to do so.
- 2.5 The DSL and deputies have up-to-date advanced level training; governors are trained in safeguarding and the safeguarding governor liaises closely and effectively with the DSL and the safeguarding team. The DSL produces an annual summary review for the governing body. Records show that governors interrogate this information with appropriate care; have safeguarding as a standing item on all agendas; and carry out an effective annual review of the safeguarding policy. Discussions with the safeguarding governor, head and DSL confirmed that the school is well prepared to ensure the wellbeing of pupils as the total number of pupils increases.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety and fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 11 and 12]

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 The school has an appropriate 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. The school site is secure and all utility and other checks have been carried out appropriately and recorded. Staff are given appropriate training in health and safety. Governors carry out effective oversight of health and safety and fire procedures. A suitable fire safety policy is in place and pupils and staff confirm effective evacuation procedures. A recent fire risk assessment has been carried out by an external company and recommendations have been addressed. Fire infrastructure, including signage, is well

maintained and checked regularly. Staff, including several who act as fire marshals, are trained annually.

- 2.8 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1320 to 1446.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils and risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 14 and 16]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 Senior leaders ensure that pupils are always under appropriate supervision while attending school. There are sufficient staff already in place to maintain suitable supervision of pupils once the proposed increase in numbers occurs, including appropriate ratios of staff to children within the EYFS. The school has an appropriate risk assessment policy. This sets out a suitable approach to the management of risk, including identifying the actions to be taken to reduce any risks which are identified. Risk assessments operate effectively for all offsite visits; for areas of the school such as design and technology and science laboratories; in the EYFS; and for outside areas. These are effectively reviewed and actions identified as necessary are implemented. Risks associated with those pupils who are vulnerable or have particular needs are assessed effectively and suitable measures are implemented to mitigate risks identified.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school implements a suitable recruitment policy effectively. This has due regard to the procedures required by KCSIE. It makes appropriate and timely checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and a register is kept as required. The information on the register reflects documentation seen in staff files.
- 2.13 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1320 to 1446.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 A tour of the school premises demonstrated that both sites provide appropriate provision and accommodation for an increase in total capacity from 1320 to 1446 pupils. In the infant and junior school an extended classroom area for Reception children provides sufficient and suitable space for the proposed second class. Dining facilities are sufficient for the increase in capacity and there are suitable age-appropriate and appropriately segregated toilet and washing facilities for the proposed increase in numbers. In the senior school, plans to provide extra changing, toilet and washing facilities are well advanced as are those to provide two extra modular classrooms, mostly for sixth form use. Across both sites appropriate medical facilities are already in place; furnishings and resources are of suitable quality; and the buildings and outdoor areas are well maintained and monitored to ensure pupil safety. Acoustics promote effective learning and all areas are appropriately lit. Effective provision is in place to ensure access to drinking water and there is sufficient space for outdoor activities and for recreation.

- 2.16 Building work carried out over recent years, as well as the proposed refurbishments currently taking place, indicate that the regulations are likely to continue to be met with the proposed increase in capacity.

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

- 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.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 Senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their roles and they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are met consistently and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. Proprietors and senior leaders have considered with suitable care what measures are necessary to increase the capacity of the school from 1320 to 1446 pupils. The school is suitably prepared for the proposed material change.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal to increase its registered capacity from 1320 to 1446 be approved. The school has effectively considered and planned for the accommodation and safeguarding needs of the additional pupils.

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mrs Kate McCarey

Reporting inspector