



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

## **Material Change Inspection Report**

**Dulwich College**

**October 2022**

## School's details

<b>College</b>	Dulwich College			
<b>DfE number</b>	210/6000			
<b>Early Years registration number</b>	EY381689			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1150064			
<b>Address</b>	Dulwich College Dulwich Common London SE21 7LD			
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8299 9252			
<b>Email address</b>	enquiries@dulwich.org.uk			
<b>Master</b>	Dr Joseph Spence			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Dr Adrian Carr			
<b>Age range</b>	0 to 19			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	1854			
	<b>Day pupils</b>	1725	<b>Boarders</b>	129
	<b>EYFS</b>	150	<b>Juniors (Years 1 to 6)</b>	299
	<b>Seniors (Years 7 to 11)</b>	930	<b>Sixth Form</b>	475
<b>Date of inspection</b>	13 October 2022			

# 1. Introduction

## Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Dulwich College is a day and boarding school which is co-educational up to the age of 7 and then educates male pupils up to the age of 18. Boarding is offered from the age of 11. The school was founded in 1619 by Edward Alleyn and moved to its current site in 1870. The school has three sections: Ducks, for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and pupils in Years 1 and 2; the junior school, for pupils in Years 3 to 6; and the senior school, for pupils in Years 7 to 13. There are three boarding houses. The school is a registered charity, overseen by trustees, who form the governing body. The school has 252 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils have an education, health and care plan. There are 95 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance and educational quality inspection in November 2021.

## 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 its capacity from 1880 to 1950 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. The proposed increase does not include additional numbers of boarders or children in the registered EYFS setting. Therefore, boarding and the Early years registered setting were not inspected.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## **2. Inspection findings**

### **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 Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils are implemented effectively. The school ensures a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn to for support. They receive a response when they express concerns, and appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding. Pupils understand how to keep themselves and others safe, including when online.
- 2.5 All staff, including those in positions of responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures. Interviews with staff and leaders confirm they fully understand their role in safeguarding. In particular, they understand different types of abuse including child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment. They also understand the need to report concerns expressed at a low level. Staff are ready to identify, report and investigate potential abuse. The safeguarding policy contains suitable guidance about reporting low-level concerns about adults working in the school and this is understood by staff. Records show that staff report any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate person in a timely fashion. Senior leaders communicate concerns to relevant outside agencies effectively. They take prompt action where concerns are raised, or incidents occur. Suitable arrangements to handle allegations against adults working with pupils are implemented effectively. Safeguarding is effectively managed. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise. Staff recruitment procedures follow all relevant guidance.
- 2.6 The governors maintain appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures, completing sufficiently regular reviews of safeguarding policy and practice effectively. Governors are appropriately trained in safeguarding. Governors and senior leaders have continued to initiate and embed effective and desirable developments in areas of safeguarding that they identified during previous inspections. The safeguarding team are sufficient in number and expertise to support effective safeguarding for pupils within the school community and for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The governors and senior leaders ensure that the written health and safety policy is implemented effectively to ensure compliance with the relevant health and safety laws. The policy and related materials provide staff with suitable guidance on health and safety matters. Appropriate records are kept of relevant health and safety checks. Matters of health and safety are regularly reviewed and reported to the governors for further review.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The governors ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Appropriate fire risk assessments have been undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The school has implemented the required actions suitably and keeps the assessments under review. There are appropriately trained competent persons on site responsible for fire safety. A suitable number of staff are trained effectively to support fire evacuation procedures for the current pupils and for the predicted increase in numbers of pupils. Records show fire evacuations take place regularly, pupils confirm they understand the correct procedures. Records show appropriate installation and maintenance of fire detection and firefighting equipment.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Discussions with pupils and staff, together with observations around the school, confirm that appropriate numbers of staff are suitably deployed to ensure adequate supervision of pupils. These numbers are sufficient for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy. The school has an effective understanding of risk assessment. Assessments of risk have been completed for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. They exist for all relevant aspects of the school premises and activities, including to provide for the welfare of individual pupils.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.

**Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23–29]**

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. It provides appropriate accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils and for the short-term care of sick pupils. The school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is ensured. In discussions, staff and pupils confirmed that, in their experience, all matters of maintenance are dealt with satisfactorily and swiftly. The acoustic conditions of the school facilities and internal and external lighting are suitable. Suitable drinking water facilities, clearly marked as such, are provided. The school provides suitable outdoor space for pupils' physical education and for their recreation. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increased number of pupils.

### **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.

### **Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]**

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The proprietor ensures that a suitable complaints procedure is drawn up and effectively implemented which deals with the handling of complaints from parents of pupils.

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

- 2.22 The school meets the standard.
- 2.23 The governors ensure that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met. They actively promote the educational wellbeing of the pupils. Suitable planning for the increase in school capacity has been executed effectively. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met.

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

#### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its total pupil numbers to 1950 is granted. The governors have made suitable arrangements to ensure that suitable health and safety, fire safety and risk assessment procedures are implemented. This includes a detailed risk assessment of the impact of the increase in numbers and effective action to address risk, including the continued development of the school facilities. Facilities to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers up to Year 2 are already in place. Phase one of the development to support the proposed increase in Years 7 and 8, is being actioned. The premises, accommodation and staffing are suitably resourced and maintained to meet the needs of the proposed number of pupils.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

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

### **Inspectors**

Mrs Vivien Sergeant

Reporting inspector