



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Material Change Visit

Edgeborough School

February 2022

School's details

School name	Edgeborough School			
DfE number	936/6037			
Registered charity number	312054			
Address	Edgeborough School Frensham Farnham Surrey GU10 3AH			
Telephone number	01252 792495			
Email address	office@edgeborough.co.uk			
Acting Headmaster	Mr Robert Smith			
Chair of governors	Mrs Vicky Tuck			
Age Range	2 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	377			
	Day pupils	325	Boarders	52
	EYFS	65	Years 1–6	246
	Years 7–8	66		
Date of visit	9 February 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Edgeborough School is a co-educational day and boarding preparatory school. The school provides flexible and weekly boarding arrangements. Originally founded as a preparatory school for boys in Edgeborough Road, Guildford in 1906, the school moved to its current site in 1939. It became an educational charitable trust in 1965 and became fully co-educational in 1992. It includes a nursery which includes the early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), pre-preparatory and preparatory schools. Since July 2021 it has been part of the Charterhouse family of schools which is overseen by one board of governors. The Edgeborough school sub-committee provides local oversight. There is currently an acting headmaster and a new headmaster is due to take up the post in April 2022. The school has 47 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom 14 require support for their needs. The school has no pupils with an educational, health and care plan. There is one pupil for whom English is an additional language and who has support for this aspect of their learning.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an announced material change visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase the number of pupils from 330 to 398. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which are the focus of the visit/inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 and 8 (safeguarding); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety) NMS 6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 7	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 6	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 14	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation); NMS 5	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]

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. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.5 Staff demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the staff safeguarding procedures including those for whistleblowing, children missing in education and the code of conduct policy. Procedures are implemented effectively to safeguard all pupils including those at risk and those in need. Staff show suitable understanding of their responsibilities and have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting potential issues, including child-on-child abuse. Staff are aware of who to go to if they have a concern or receive a disclosure and that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy provides contact details for the required local agencies. 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 a role. The training for staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities is in line with local requirements and statutory advice. Training for all staff is of sufficient frequency and quality. Central records of training attendance are comprehensive.
- 2.7 Discussions with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for the school confirmed that the staff and pupils receive guidance on how to address issues when they arise and receive appropriate support. The DSL acts immediately on any early signs of risk or need and monitors pupils together with appropriate staff. The school listens to the views of the pupils in all safeguarding matters as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. Pupils confirm that the school listens to them and responds to issues quickly. The pupils' mental health is given a high priority, particularly since returning from online learning. Effective and timely communication is provided to parents. Referrals to children's services and the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO) are detailed and timely and the school has an effective relationship with other outside agencies. Records are comprehensive and written with clarity. Pupils are supported in learning how to keep themselves safe, including online, through monitoring and filtering of technology which is effective.
- 2.8 Suitable arrangements for handling allegations against all staff, and potential misconduct are clearly included in the safeguarding policy. Records show that the school seeks immediate advice from the LADO where required. Detailed records show that procedures are followed effectively, and the school follows up actions suggested promptly. The school understands its role in reporting any person to the relevant regulatory bodies where necessary. There is oversight by governors and they effectively carry out an annual review of safeguarding.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 6]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 There is an effective health and safety policy which is implemented effectively by the school ensuring that relevant health and safety laws are complied with. Records show that all testing of water, electrical and other utilities are systematically undertaken. Training is comprehensive and staff deal with accidents if they happen. Senior leaders monitor any trends and there are increased steps to mitigate incidents. Vehicle movement is monitored and minimised. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 7]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school has a fire prevention strategy and a suitable fire risk assessment and action plan. A fire risk assessment of all buildings has been 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 to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 15]

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 Pupils at all ages of the school are properly supervised by suitably qualified and trained staff. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 6]

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The school has effective risk assessments for buildings and educational visits as well as aspects such as sport and activities. All appropriate risk assessments are clear and include approaches to be taken to identify and mitigate the risk. They include for when pupils are in the school and in the surrounding area. There are specific risk assessments for vulnerable pupils that are managed through the DSL. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 14]

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 All the statutory checks on staff, including supply staff, and governors are carried out and completed before they take up their position. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.19 The school maintains a comprehensive and accurate single central register of appointments which includes the dates on which all checks have been completed.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation; medical accommodation; maintenance; acoustics; lighting; water supply and outdoor space [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29; NMS 5]

- 2.20 The school meets the standards.

2.21 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 the standard required by the health and safety executive; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; and water provision is adequate. There is suitable outdoor space for physical education and outdoor play. The material change request does not require additional buildings. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

2.22 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 13]

2.23 The school meets the standards.

2.24 Suitable practices and procedures are implemented which allow senior leaders and governors to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements and monitor compliance with the standards and other statutory advice including safer recruitment. The leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are consistently met. The strategic and operational planning for the proposed increase in numbers actively promotes the well-being of all pupils.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its numbers to 398 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 acting head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a governor. She visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.