



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**Hazlegrove Preparatory School**

**November 2022**

## School's details

<b>School name</b>	Hazlegrove Preparatory School		
<b>DfE number</b>	933/6182		
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1071997		
<b>Address</b>	Hazlegrove Preparatory School Sparkford Yeovil Somerset BA22 7JA		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01963 440314		
<b>Email</b>	headsec@hazlegrove.co.uk		
<b>Headmaster</b>	Mr Edward Benbow		
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Stephen Edlmann		
<b>Age Range</b>	2 to 14		
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	402		
	<b>Day pupils</b>	335	<b>Boarders</b> 67
	<b>EYFS Hazlegrove</b>	43	<b>EYFS Sunny Hill</b> 23
	<b>Juniors</b>	221	<b>Seniors</b> 115
<b>Date of inspection</b>	21 November 2022		

# 1. Introduction

## Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Hazlegrove Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school. It is a part of King's School, Bruton, a registered charity with one governing body that oversees the running of both schools. The school has been situated at Hazlegrove since 1947. It is set in extensive grounds with educational facilities built around the main 18th century manor house. These include a purpose built pre-preparatory building. Boarders are accommodated in three houses. A new headmaster took up post in September 2022.
- 1.2 On the recent closure of Bruton School for Girls, Hazlegrove took over the running of and responsibility for Sunny Hill Nursery in March 2022. This is set on a separate site about 8 miles from Hazlegrove.
- 1.3 The school has identified 52 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil in the school has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 12 pupils.

## Purpose of the inspection

- 1.4 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to lower the age range from three to two and to increase the number of pupils in the school from its currently registered capacity of 399 to 440. 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 changes relate solely to the lowering of the age range at Hazlegrove pre-prep and an increase in the number on roll through the acquisition of Sunny Hill Nursery. Boarding was not inspected.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraphs 2 (curriculum), 3 (teaching) and 4 (framework for pupil performance)	<b>Met</b>
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	<b>Met</b>
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 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (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)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

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

- 2.1 The school meets the standards.
- 2.2 A written policy, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, is implemented effectively in both Hazlegrove Nursery and Sunny Hill Nursery. In both schools, the plans take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all children and do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They enable children to acquire appropriate speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills and incorporate a programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE) which reflects the schools' aims and ethos and encourages respect for other people. They provide a programme of activities which is appropriate to children's educational needs in relation to their personal, social, emotional and physical development, and communication and language skills. They provide all pupils with the opportunity to learn and make progress together with effective preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.
- 2.3 The teaching on both sites enables children to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their abilities. Children show interest in their work and the ability to think for themselves. The teaching is well planned, demonstrates effective teaching methods and activities, good management of class time, and an understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainment of the children, including those with SEND. Effective observation by staff ensures that children's interests and motivations are taken into account when planning lessons. The teaching demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter being taught. It manages children's behaviour well and uses classroom resources of good quality, quantity and range effectively. The teaching does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. It does not discriminate against children because of their protected characteristics.
- 2.4 Assessment is effective. Both schools complete a progress check when children are aged between two and three and provide parents with a short, written summary of their child's development in the prime areas.

### Quality of education provided – spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.

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

#### Safeguarding policy

- 2.7 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.8 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**

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school's safeguarding policy is implemented effectively. It provides appropriate support for pupils' needs. There are very few instances of child-on-child abuse. Any which occur are generally one-off incidents which do not reach the threshold of bullying. There have been no reported issues of inappropriate sexual behaviour or racial discrimination.
- 2.11 Safeguarding is overseen by a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for the wider foundation and a named DSL for each of Hazlegrove pre-prep and Sunny Hill Nursery. There are also other deputy DSLs in other parts of the school. An active, nominated governor has oversight of safeguarding matters and requires the DSL to report formally to the board seven times a year. There is an annual review of safeguarding which is ratified by the governing body. Governors are trained appropriately in safeguarding.
- 2.12 The training of DSLs and deputy DSLs is up to date. Staff receive a suitably thorough induction when they join the school. All staff are trained appropriately at the start of the school year and training is subsequently updated should any matters arise. All have read the statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (September 2022), and have a good understanding of safeguarding requirements. They know what procedures to follow should a child make a disclosure or an allegation about a member of staff or express any other concern. There is a thorough system for keeping records of safeguarding. Guidance is provided to staff with regard to e-safety. There is a suitable safer recruitment policy.
- 2.13 In the EYFS, there are clear guidelines on the use of mobile phones and the taking of photographs. Each child is assigned a designated key person after a short introductory period. There are suitable procedures in place should a parent fail to collect their child or should the child go missing.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 There are effectively implemented procedures to ensure the health and safety of the children, and senior leaders and governors give due consideration to all matters pertaining to health and safety. They take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of all who work at the school. Vehicular movement is restricted to the outer part of the school sites. Hazardous substances are controlled and stored effectively. The school takes all necessary measures to ensure that electrical equipment is in a safe condition. Staff in the EYFS have been trained in food hygiene. Children in the EYFS on both school sites eat in their classrooms as these provide familiar surroundings for them.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school has adequate procedures to guard against fire. There is a suitable fire risk assessment for each school site. Fire drills are held at least termly, and teachers and pupils are familiar with the routine for emergency evacuation. Exit routes are clearly marked and escape routes are kept free from obstruction. Fire alarms and fire extinguishers are serviced regularly and are appropriately situated.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 Pupils are properly supervised. The EYFS maintains appropriate staffing ratios, and children are always within sight or hearing of a member of staff. Should a member of staff be called away for whatever reason, they will always ensure another member of staff knows where they are. Suitable arrangements are made for children who require a sleep during the day.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The school has an appropriate risk assessment policy. Staff carry out routine risk assessments of EYFS accommodation before school and during the day and take appropriate action should an assessment raise any concerns. For off-site visits, a pre-visit risk assessment is carried out and a senior member of staff will sign-off the assessment. In the Nursery, whenever a visit goes off site, parents are usually invited.

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

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 On both school sites, suitable toilet and changing facilities and appropriate accommodation for children's medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; 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)]**

- 2.24 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]**

- 2.25 The school meets the standard.
- 2.26 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.
- 2.27 The EYFS leaders provide dedicated times for supervision in which staff may discuss any issues of concern.

### **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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

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

### **Summary of findings**

- 4.1 Hazlegrove Preparatory School has accepted two-year-olds since at least 2015. At its previous two inspections, the school has been deemed to meet all of the Independent School Standards Regulations. Nothing observed on this visit indicates any change in quality or provision.
- 4.2 Sunny Hill Nursery was deemed to meet all of the Independent School Standards Regulations at its previous inspection as part of Bruton School for Girls. When the latter closed in July 2022 the governors of the King's School Foundation opted to maintain Sunny Hill Nursery to be managed by Hazlegrove Preparatory School. Nothing observed on this visit indicates any change in quality or provision.

### **Recommendation**

- 4.3 It is recommended that the DfE accepts the material changes requested by the school.



## 5. Summary of evidence

- 5.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, head of pre-prep at Hazlegrove, EYFS manager at Sunny Hill and other members of staff and met remotely with a group of governors. He visited the pre-prep department at Hazlegrove, and Sunny Hill Nursery. He observed lessons and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

### Inspectors

Mr Graham Sims

Reporting inspector