



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Material Change Visit

Kingswood School

November 2021

School's details

School name	Kingswood School		
DfE number	800/6000		
Registered charity number	309148		
Address	Kingswood School Lansdown Road Bath Somerset BA1 5RG		
Telephone number	01225 734200		
Email address	reception@kingswood.bath.sch.uk		
Headteacher	Mr Andrew Gordon-Brown		
Chair of governors	Mrs Helen Bools		
Age Range	11 to 18		
Number of pupils on roll	843		
	Day pupils	657	Boarders 186
	Seniors	606	Sixth Form 237
Date of visit	8 November 2021		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Kingswood School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school, founded by John Wesley in the 18th century and which moved to its present location in Bath, in the 1850s. The school is a registered charity with a board of governors who exercise their control of Kingswood School, the unincorporated charity, as directors of the incorporated company, Kingswood School Trustee Limited. This company is the sole managing trustee of Kingswood School. It is an associated member of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust and retains a Christian ethos. The school has 198 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 44 pupils. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in March 2018.

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 school roll from 800 to 890. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 7	Met
NMS 3 (Boarders' health and well-being)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 6	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 30 (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 and safeguarding of boarders [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 Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including boarders are implemented effectively to ensure a culture of listening to pupils. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and that appropriate action is taken when necessary. This was confirmed in interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding, which are appropriately kept. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and use of technology is effectively safeguarded. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing which staff understand.
- 2.5 All staff, including those in positions of leadership, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed. Staff understand the different types of peer-on-peer abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND, and are suitably aware of issues relating to sexual harassment. They know when and how to make referrals where they have a concern about a pupil or an adult working in the school. The school liaises appropriately with external agencies, including the local area designated officer and the local safeguarding partnership and takes prompt action where concerns are raised.
- 2.6 There is a sufficient number of trained designated safeguarding leads. The implementation of safeguarding is appropriately monitored by the proprietor. There are suitable arrangements for staff recruitment. Current arrangements for safeguarding are implemented effectively and suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standard when the pupil roll is increased.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 The school has implemented an appropriate fire prevention policy. A suitable fire risk assessment has been completed and is monitored effectively. Fire alarm systems and fire-fighting apparatus are suitable and maintained appropriately. Fire drills are conducted at least termly and during boarding time. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

Boarders' health and well-being [NMS 3]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Appropriate arrangements are made to meet the needs of boarders who are injured or unwell. There is a sufficient number of appropriately trained staff and first-aid kits are available as required. Accommodation for boarders who are unwell is suitably equipped and furnished. Boarders' health and well-being are promoted. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

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 The proprietor ensures that arrangements are made to ensure adequate supervision of pupils and boarders, including during the evenings and at weekends. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

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 a risk assessment policy and ensures appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified for current pupils, including in boarding. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23–30; NMS 5]

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 The proprietor ensures that the school premises and accommodation are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is ensured. For the current pupils, including boarders, suitable toilet, washing and changing facilities are provided and appropriate accommodation exists for pupils' medical and therapy needs. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate and water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and play. Boarding accommodation is adequate and appropriate for the needs of boarders. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

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.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34; NMS 13]

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 Those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards and the national minimum standards for boarding are consistently met, and the well-being of pupils, including boarders, is actively promoted. Appropriate procedures are implemented effectively which allow governors to monitor compliance with regulations. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the pupil roll is increased.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 The school meets all the regulatory standards which were the subject of this visit.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the school's application to increase the pupil roll to 890 be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

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