



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Pownall Hall School

May 2023

School's details

School name	Pownall Hall School			
DfE number	895/6015			
Registered charity number	525929			
Address	Pownall Hall School Carrwood Road Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5DW			
Telephone number	01625 523141			
Email address	ledwards@pownallhallschool.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr David Goulbourn			
Chair of governors	Mrs Eileen MacAulay			
Proprietor	Pownall Hall School Trust Ltd			
Age Range	6 months to 11 years			
Number of pupils on roll	302			
	EYFS	130	Pre-prep	67
	Prep	105		
Date of inspection	4 May 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Pownall Hall School is an independent co-educational day school located in Wilmslow, Cheshire. It is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors. The school consists of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), for pupils aged 6 months to 5; the pre-prep for those aged 5 to 7; and the prep for pupils aged 7 to 11. The school has 26 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Four pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 19 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in March 2020.
- 1.2 The school opened a nursery class for children aged 6 months to 2 years in January 2022; this setting has not yet received its initial inspection by Ofsted and was not included in this visit.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.3 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 260 to 338 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, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 19–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23–29 (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]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.2 Appropriate measures are in place for the reporting of serious allegations about adults working in the school. Staff interviewed demonstrated an understanding of behaviours that should be reported as lower-level concerns and these are recorded and acted upon in line with statutory guidance.
- 2.3 Suitable arrangements are in place for pupils to share their concerns. Those interviewed could readily identify trusted adults in school and explain what they have learnt about how to keep themselves safe, including online. Appropriate records are kept of concerns about pupils, including those relating to allegations of child-on-child abuse. These show that appropriate actions are taken as required, including liaison with parents and external agencies. Staff and senior leaders, including those with responsibility for the leadership of safeguarding, have been appropriately trained.

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

- 2.4 The school meets the standard.
- 2.5 Procedures to maintain health and safety are consistent with those required by relevant legislation and are implemented effectively. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 Appropriate measures are in place to comply with the requirements for fire safety. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The number of staff available to supervise the pupils is appropriate for the current number of pupils in the school, including in the EYFS. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 Appropriate risk assessments are implemented in the school, including in the EYFS. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standards.
- 2.13 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of supply staff and the proprietors.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 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 a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Existing teaching spaces are sufficient to accommodate the larger groups proposed in the material change application safely. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play. No additional buildings will be required for the increased number of pupils included in the proposal for material change.
- 2.16 Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

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 and the requirements.
- 2.19 School leaders and managers demonstrate sufficiently good skills and knowledge to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that all the other independent school standards are met and the wellbeing of pupils actively promoted.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the material change should 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. She visited different areas of the school and talked with a group of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Karen Williams

Reporting inspector