



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Seaford College

September 2022

School's details

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|----------------------------------|--|-----|-----------------|-----|
| School name | Seaford College | | | |
| DfE number | 938/6023 | | | |
| Registered charity number | 277439 | | | |
| Address | Seaford College Lavington Park Petworth West Sussex GU28 0NB | | | |
| Telephone number | 01798 867392 | | | |
| Email address | info@seaford.org | | | |
| Headmaster | Mr John Green | | | |
| Chair of governors | Mr Richard Venables Kyrke | | | |
| Age Range | 7 to 18 | | | |
| Number of pupils on roll | 943 | | | |
| | Day pupils | 717 | Boarders | 226 |
| | Juniors | 116 | Seniors | 563 |
| | Sixth Form | 264 | | |
| Date of visit | 29 September 2022 | | | |

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Seaford College is an independent co-educational boarding and day school, situated in Petworth, West Sussex. It is a charitable trust governed by a board of trustees. The school has 219 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of which one has an education, health and care plan. There are nine pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a material change inspection in February 2020.

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 the total number of pupils from 850 to 950. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs). The visit was principally focused on the impact of the requested pupil increase on teaching and other daytime activities, including dining and socialising arrangements for pupils.

| 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, paragraphs 18 to 21 (Suitability of staff, supply staff and the proprietors) | Met |
| Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 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]

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 The implementation of the school's safeguarding policy is effective. Arrangements ensure that pupils are listened to effectively. They receive a response to their concerns and action is taken when required. Staff support pupils appropriately. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the use of technology is effectively safeguarded. Senior leaders keep appropriately confidential records of pupils at risk or in need of early help. These demonstrate that senior leaders maintain close links with external agencies, including the local area designated officer and the police, when necessary. Staff understand the school's appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing.
- 2.5 Staff show effective understanding of their responsibilities and are suitably trained and regularly updated on developments in safeguarding procedures. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have updated their training at the correct level. The safeguarding team is based within a dedicated pastoral hub which helps to promote the welfare of all pupils effectively. Staff show appropriate awareness of safeguarding procedures, including matters relating to child-on-child abuse and the particular vulnerability of pupils with SEND to such abuse. Senior leaders respond effectively when staff raise any concerns. The safeguarding policy gives sufficient contact details for local agencies. Appropriate arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures. These are implemented effectively. Staff interviewed understood the procedures for reporting such allegations, including low-level concerns.
- 2.6 All governors have completed appropriate safeguarding training. The designated safeguarding governor maintains close and regular contact with the DSL and takes an active role in overseeing safeguarding in the school. Governors conduct a suitable review of safeguarding procedures and ensure that appropriate arrangements for staff recruitment are implemented. Current arrangements for safeguarding and pupil welfare are likely to continue to be effective when the total number of pupils is increased.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Suitable procedures are maintained which ensure that all necessary checks are carried out and recorded. Staff receive appropriate training in health and safety. Governors monitor the implementation of relevant checks and procedures. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the total number of pupils is increased.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Suitable arrangements are implemented to prevent fire. The school has an appropriate fire risk assessment, including for newly developed teaching areas. Any recommendations are actioned appropriately. Regular practice evacuations are carried out as required. Staff and pupils understand what to do in case of fire. The governors ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the total number of pupils is increased.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the total number of pupils is increased.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Senior leaders implement a suitable risk assessment policy effectively. They ensure that appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified for different activities, hazards, and for current pupils. Senior leaders have assessed any risk associated with the proposed increase in pupil numbers effectively. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to meet the standard when the number of pupils is increased.

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. Governors monitor the process regularly and effectively. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the total number of pupils is increased.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 The proprietor ensures that the school premises and accommodation, including newly completed additional classrooms, are maintained to a standard, such that, so far as is reasonably practical, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is ensured. Suitable toilet, washing and changing facilities are provided, including in new teaching and recreational areas associated with increased numbers of pupils. Appropriate accommodation exists for pupils' medical and therapy needs. This has capacity for the proposed increase in numbers. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate, including in new teaching and recreational areas. Water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and play. This includes additional spaces developed in association with the increase in pupil numbers. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the number of pupils 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]

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 Governors and senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. Governors implement appropriate procedures to monitor compliance with the regulations. Suitable planning for the proposed increase in pupil numbers has been effectively implemented. Current arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the total number of pupils is increased.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the school's application to increase the pupil roll to 950 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.

Inspectors

Mr Kerry Lord

Reporting inspector