



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Connie Rothman School

August 2023

School's details

School	Connie Rothman School			
DfE number	839/6014			
Registered charity number	1171812			
Address	Connie Rothman School 107/109 Belle Vue Road Southbourne Bournemouth Dorset BH6 3DJ			
Telephone number	01202433673			
Email address	hello@crlt.org.uk.			
Headteacher	Mrs Rozanne Parsons			
Chair of governors	Mr Haymo Thiel			
Proprietor	Connie Rothman Learning Trust			
Age range	11 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	21			
	Seniors	10	Sixth Form	11
Date of inspection	17 August 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Connie Rothman School was registered as a school in October 2020 catering for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities primarily linked to a diagnosis of autism spectrum conditions and social, emotional and mental health needs, including anxiety. The school is a charitable foundation, and its work is overseen by its governing body. Up to the ending of the lease in August 2023, most pupils were located in the main school building. Post-16 pupils were located in the ‘hub’, situated near to the main school. All pupils have education, health and care plans. No pupils speak English as an additional language. Its first standard inspection was by Ofsted in October 2021.
- 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 move premises to Christchurch Christian School, Millhams Street, Christchurch, BH23 1DN for September 2023 following the unexpected ending of the current lease at the end of August 2023.
- 1.3 The inspection focused on the school’s compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

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 16 (risk assessment)	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]

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 standard.
- 2.4 The school implements its arrangements effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. The school has considered and implemented suitable arrangements for shared use of the proposed new premises with the church. There is a separate entrance to the church office which is locked so that there is no access to the school. The chapel area is used by a pre-school group once per week and church members once per week. This area is also accessed by a separate entrance and is suitably inaccessible from the school when in use by external groups. When this area is not in use by external people it provides suitable additional hall space for the school.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who is a member of the senior leadership team, diligently oversees safeguarding. The DSL is supported by a deputy DSL and additional members of the safeguarding team comprising the headteacher, chief executive and business manager. The DSL and DDSL have attended the appropriate level of inter-agency training. Other members of the safeguarding team and the safeguarding governor have also attended training at the same level as the DSL. The DSL liaises effectively with the governor responsible for safeguarding to ensure effective oversight of safeguarding procedures, to monitor the implementation of the policy and to ensure that an appropriate annual review of safeguarding is undertaken. Leaders ensure that staff have suitable induction training in the school's policies and procedures which include a comprehensive staff code of conduct. Staff say that the support of a mentor when they start work at the school enables them to understand the context of the pupils and the safeguarding requirements. Staff and governors understand the recent training in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022. They are suitably aware of contextual safeguarding and the vulnerabilities of pupils attending the school, child-on-child abuse and the need to respond to all concerns, including low-level concerns. Suitable plans are in place to update staff and governors at the beginning of the Autumn Term with regard to any updates to KCSIE 2023.
- 2.6 The school maintains appropriate, confidential records of all child protection concerns. There is appropriate liaison with children's services for guidance and when making referrals. School leaders liaise appropriately with the local authority designated officer (LADO) with regard to any concerns. In liaison with the LADO, it implements appropriate procedures to manage any allegations against adults working with pupils.
- 2.7 An older pupil and supporting parent stated that the school enables pupils to feel safe and that there are a wide range of staff to whom they can turn if they are worried or concerned. They referred to the value of individual support given by their teachers and support assistants. When pupils raise concerns, they receive suitable responses taking into account their individual needs. Detailed records of safeguarding confirm that appropriate action is taken, when necessary, without delay. Pupils understand how to stay safe online and the school monitors the use of technology appropriately. Leaders and governors have considered carefully and acted upon the contextual impact of moving

premises including planning an induction process for pupils and their families. The school is likely to meet requirements with the move to new premises.

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

2.8 The school meets the standard.

2.9 The school's provision for health and safety is appropriate. Arrangements for drop off and collection of pupils are safe and appropriate, enabling direct access to the school. Extensive works, including suitable refurbishment of the building, installation of alarms and signage, have been undertaken in order to prepare for the move to the new premises. Comprehensive health and safety checks have been undertaken, mostly by appropriate external specialists. Hazardous materials such as those used by cleaners are stored securely. The school keeps detailed and well-organised records of health and safety checks. Governors monitor health and safety effectively, supporting staff in preparing for the move to the new premises and in responding to any health and safety issues without delay. The school is likely to meet requirements with the move to new premises.

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

2.10 The school meets the standard.

2.11 The school has an appropriate policy and procedures for fire safety. Suitable plans are in place to induct pupils and staff in evacuation procedures including exit routes, location of the fire assembly point and fire safety equipment. The school has suitable plans in place for regular fire drills. An external company has carried out a fire risk assessment and all issues raised have been suitably addressed. The school is likely to meet requirements with the move to new premises.

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

2.12 The school meets the standard.

2.13 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy. Risk assessments identify key areas of risk and suitable steps to be taken to mitigate risks identified including for safeguarding and for SEND. Risk assessments are checked by leaders and monitored appropriately by governors. Staff and governors have received appropriate training in risk assessment. Risks associated with the move to the new premises have been assessed effectively, particularly taking into account the additional needs of the pupils. The school is likely to meet requirements with the move to new premises.

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

2.14 The school meets the standards.

2.15 Leaders and governors have reviewed the premises and facilities comprehensively and have refurbished the building in order to provide suitable accommodation for the school. Six classrooms, additional pastoral and teaching areas, office, hall and dining room have been suitably refurbished including with access to information technology. The school provides suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities as well as appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs. The premises have been upgraded to a standard commensurate with sound health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is suitable. The school has appropriate outdoor space for physical education and outdoor play. The school also has access to suitable facilities in a nearby school and external facilities for physical education and sport activities. The school is likely to meet requirements with the move to new premises.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school provides the required 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.
- 2.19 Governance, leadership and management have taken appropriate action to ensure that the school will continue to meet the standards when it makes the planned move to the new premises. The school actively promotes the wellbeing of pupils taking into account their additional needs and circumstances. Appropriate safeguarding training for governors, leaders and all staff is in place, including additional requirements associated with a move to new premises. There are suitable procedures to monitor that the school meets the requirements of the independent school standards. The school is likely to meet the requirements with the move to new premises.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Summary of findings

- 3.1 Governors and school leaders have considered with appropriate care the impact of moving premises due to the ending of the school's current lease. In order to continue to meet the standards, the building has been suitably refurbished taking into account safeguarding requirements associated with dual use with the church, who is also the landlord. Appropriate health and safety checks have been undertaken and appropriate action to ensure requirements are met including for fire safety. A suitable induction programme has been implemented in order to support the move taking into account the additional needs of the pupils and their families.

Recommendation

- 3.2 It is recommended that the school's request to move premises to Christchurch Christian School, Millhams Street, Christchurch, BH23 1DN for September 2023 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 CEO and a governor who is the chair of the school's health and safety committee. She visited different areas of the school, talked with a pupil and parent and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Patricia Preedy

Reporting inspector