



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**Wribbenhall School**

**July 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Wribbenhall School
<b>DfE number</b>	885/6046
<b>Address</b>	Wribbenhall School 21 Crundalls Lane Wribbenhall Bewdley Worcestershire DY12 1JL
<b>Telephone number</b>	01299 405383
<b>Email address</b>	ewells@wribbenhallschool.co.uk
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Ellis Wells
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr Ellis Wells
<b>Age range</b>	5 to 11
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	4
	<b>Juniors</b> 4
<b>Date of inspection</b>	11 July 2023

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Wribbenhall School is a co-educational independent day school which caters for pupils with a range of social, emotional and mental health needs. It is located in the proprietor's home on the outskirts of Bewdley. The sole proprietor acts as the head of the school. The school has four pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), all of whom have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. This is the school's first ISI inspection. The school's previous inspection was a standard inspection conducted by Ofsted in June 2021.

### 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 capacity from 4 to 6 pupils and extend the age range from 5 – 11 to 5 – 13. 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 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	<b>Met</b>
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching)	<b>Met</b>
Part 1, paragraph 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>Not 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 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23–29 (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>Not met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school has a suitable curriculum policy which is effectively implemented. The curriculum covers all the required areas of learning and takes into account pupils' individual needs. It ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to make progress. Appropriate plans are in place to ensure that provision for pupils at ages 11 to 13 will be similarly effective. The relationships education curriculum is delivered effectively to pupils of junior school age. Suitable plans are in place to provide for appropriate content and teaching as the school admits pupils over the age of 11. This includes up-to-date careers guidance, and relationships and sex education except where a pupils' parent requests that the pupil is wholly or partly excused from sex education.

### Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 Teaching enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress across the curriculum. It ensures appropriate behaviour, motivation and engagement in lessons. 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. The school is likely to meet requirements when the proposed changes are made.

### Quality of education provided – framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school has established an effective system of assessing pupils against suitable criteria which reflect the school's aims and national benchmarks. This gives them and their parents a sense of how well they are progressing and how they might improve. The school is likely to meet requirements when the proposed changes are made.

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school actively promotes principles which enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. It effectively promotes pupils' understanding of right and wrong; encourages them to take responsibility for their own behaviour; and promotes kindness and respect for others. It promotes respect for those with protected characteristics so that pupils understand that everyone is different and should be treated equally, regardless of beliefs or background. It is likely to continue to meet the requirements with the introduction of older pupils.

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

#### Safeguarding policy

- 2.9 The school does not meet the requirements.

- 2.10 The school's policy for safeguarding does not provide suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school because it does not have due regard to all statutory guidance. In particular, it does not make appropriate arrangements in relation to the status of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). Because the DSL is both the head of the school and the sole proprietor, they are not able to discharge the safeguarding role with sufficient independence.

### **Safeguarding implementation**

- 2.11 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.12 The school has not ensured that the DSL discharges his role with appropriate independence. In all other areas, safeguarding procedures are suitably implemented in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) 2022. The DSL and his deputy work effectively to promote the wellbeing of pupils. In discussion, pupils confirmed that they can raise any concerns with any member of staff and that, if they do so, they receive an appropriate response. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts swiftly to respond to any concerns it receives about pupils and that it refers concerns appropriately to local agencies. Any incidences of child-on-child abuse have received an appropriate response. Pupils receive suitable advice about online safety and the school has effective systems in place to filter and monitor the internet.
- 2.13 Staff, including those with leadership responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained. All staff complete training in the risks associated with terrorism and extremism. Records are systematically kept and show that training for all staff is current, appropriate and in line with local safeguarding requirements. In discussion, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of how to report any concerns they may have about adults in the school and confirmed that they would do so without hesitation. There is an appropriate approach to reporting low-level concerns about adults working with children and a suitable log is kept. Staff are particularly aware of the vulnerability of pupils with SEND and are alert to concerns about pupils' mental health.
- 2.14 The proprietor implements effective procedures to ensure that appropriate and timely checks are made to confirm the suitability of staff. These include the taking of references, a check of employment history, relevant prohibition checks and a check against the barred list before the commencement of employment. Oversight by the proprietor is effective in most areas but it has not been sufficiently robust. It has not ensured that the DSL has suitable independence.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 The proprietor ensures that the school complies with relevant health and safety laws by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Systematic records show that utilities and equipment are tested appropriately on a regular basis. Current arrangements indicate that the school is likely to continue to meet the standard when the proposed changes are made.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 The school has a suitable fire safety policy, which it implements effectively, and an appropriate fire risk assessment. Procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are well understood by staff and pupils, and training is thorough and effective. Termly fire drills are carried out and recorded and the relevant equipment is checked. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 Pupils are appropriately supervised through the effective deployment of staff. Current arrangements indicate that the school is likely to continue to meet the standard when the pupil roll is increased.

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

- 2.21 The school meets the standard.
- 2.22 The school's risk assessment policy clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of staff in identifying and mitigating risk. Appropriate and suitably thorough risk assessments are drawn up for all areas of the premises, in-school activities and trips and visits. The needs of individual pupils are also taken into account where risk is identified. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.23 The school meets the standards.
- 2.24 All the required checks are undertaken on staff and the proprietor before they take up their posts. The school does not currently employ supply staff. A register is kept as required and all appointments are accurately and fully recorded. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when the proposed changes are made.

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

- 2.25 The school meets the standards.
- 2.26 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, 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 and water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play. The current provision is likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers and extension of the age range.

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

- 2.27 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]**

- 2.28 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.29 Because the proprietor has failed to ensure that the DSL discharges his role with appropriate independence, they do not demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted.

### 3. Regulatory action points

3.1 The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

#### **ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 7**

- The school must appoint a designated safeguarding lead who is able to discharge that role with sufficient independence and ensure appropriate proprietorial oversight of safeguarding [paragraph 7(a) and (b)].

#### **ISSR Part 8, Quality of leadership and management, paragraph 34**

- The proprietor must ensure that those with responsibility for leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all of the standards are met consistently and they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils [paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)].

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

- 4.1 It is not recommended that the material change be approved because the school does not currently meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.



## **5. Summary of evidence**

- 5.1 The inspector held discussions with the head and other members of staff. He visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with a group of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

### **Inspectors**

Mr Stephen Fox

Reporting inspector