



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

## **Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit**

**Babington House School**

**February 2020**



## School's details

<b>School College</b>	Babington House School			
<b>DfE number</b>	305/6000			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	307914			
<b>Address</b>	Babington House School Grange Drive, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5ES			
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8467 5537			
<b>Email address</b>	enquiries@babingtonhouse.co.uk			
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Tim Lello			
<b>Proprietor Chair of governors</b>	Mr Christopher Turner			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 18			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	420			
	<b>EYFS</b>	84	<b>Prep</b>	214
	<b>Seniors</b>	101	<b>Sixth Form</b>	21
<b>Date of visit</b>	7 February 2020			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Babington House School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged from three to eighteen. Founded in 1887, the school operates as an educational trust, and a board of governors is responsible for governance. The school is comprised of: an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), for children aged three to five; a prep department, for pupils aged from five to eleven; and a senior department, for pupils aged from eleven to eighteen. The school has identified 79 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities and two pupils have an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for nine pupils.

### Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted, following the regulatory compliance inspection in September 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 3.11 and 3.14	Met
Part 3 paragraph 15 (admissions); EYFS 3.72	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff); EYFS 3.9 and 3.12	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation); EYFS 3.54, 3.58, 3.60 and 3.62	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information – safeguarding policy)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

## 2. Inspection findings

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils - safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 3.11 and 3.14]**

#### **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 and the requirements.
- 2.4 The safeguarding policy sets out clearly the school's commitment to acting in the best interests of the child. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) works closely with two deputy DSLs, and records show that as a safeguarding team they consult appropriately and swiftly with other agencies, including their local safeguarding partners. The DSL has a good understanding of local thresholds.
- 2.5 Recruitment checks against the list of those persons barred from regulated activity and, where appropriate, checks for prohibition from teaching and from management and disqualification from childcare orders, are carried out on staff and governors before they commence work.
- 2.6 Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures and, if potential incidents arise, the school seeks immediate advice from the local authority designated safeguarding officers (LADO). The school understands its role in reporting any person whose services are no longer used where referral criteria are met, to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA).
- 2.7 All members of the safeguarding team are trained in inter-agency working at the appropriate level. All staff have recently received training in line with locally agreed procedures and have completed online training in the risks of radicalisation and extremism. New staff receive appropriate induction training at which they are provided with the required documentation. Central records of staff attendance at training are kept systematically, so that absentees at the time of training can be identified and offered catch-up sessions. A sample of staff interviewed demonstrated a full awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities, a knowledge of the correct referral pathways and an understanding of how to respond to concerns.
- 2.8 The school safeguarding team works together with the designated safeguarding governor to produce termly safeguarding reports which include appropriate reference to the statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). The chair of governors has a clear understanding of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils - admission [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 15; EYFS 3.72]**

- 2.9 The school meets the standard and the requirement.
- 2.10 The admission register is maintained, as required. It contains information about where a pupil normally resides, the contact details of all persons known to be parents of a child, an indication of which parent holds parental responsibility and the details of leavers' destination schools.

**Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18-21; EYFS 3.9 and 3.12]**

- 2.11 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.12 The school makes all the necessary checks for the suitability of all staff, contractors and governors in line with current regulations and statutory guidance. All checks are made prior to appointment including for identity, medical fitness and qualifications and the appropriate documentation is used to verify the right of new members of staff to work in the United Kingdom.
- 2.13 The dates of all checks are recorded on the single central register and the information reflects documentation seen in the staff files.

**Premises and Accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23 – 29; 3.54, 3.58, 3.60 and 3.62]**

- 2.14 The school meets the standard and the requirements
- 2.15 As part of the school's application for a material change request, a tour of the school site demonstrated that appropriate provision is already in place for the increase in pupil numbers. All accommodation and facilities are appropriately heated, lit, ventilated and clean. Classroom areas are suitably sized, have good acoustics to promote learning and are well organised to accommodate the numbers of pupils within each year group. All areas of the school are maintained in a good state of repair and regularly monitored for safety; any maintenance issues are promptly rectified. Medical facilities are appropriate and centrally situated, to provide required support for pupils needs. Dining facilities and food preparation areas are suitable. Pupils have easy access to drinking water. External areas are appropriate and well-maintained, enabling suitable provision for physical education and outdoor play for pupils of all ages. External lighting ensures all areas are appropriately lit. Suitable plans were viewed which will increase provision for male pupils' toilet and washbasin facilities.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school meets the requirement 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.
- 2.19 The governing body ensures that those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role, fulfil their responsibilities effectively, and actively promote the well-being of pupils. The school has taken effective action to ensure that issues found at the previous inspection have been rectified through successful implementation of its action plan.

### **3. Regulatory action points**

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

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