



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Ballard School

September 2022

School's details

School	Ballard School			
DfE number	850/6012			
Registered charity number	307328			
Address	Ballard School Fernhill Lane New Milton Hampshire BH25 5SU			
Telephone number	01425 626900			
Email address	headmaster@ballardschool.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Andrew McCleave			
Chair of governors	Mr Peter Goodfellow			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	489			
	EYFS	50	Juniors	145
	Seniors	294		
Date of inspection	21 September 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Ballard School is a co-educational independent day school, set in a rural location. The school is an educational charitable trust overseen by a board of governors. The number of pupils identified by the school as requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 117, with all pupils receiving additional support from the school for their needs. There are three pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. One pupil has English as an additional language and receives additional support. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection 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 on 19 January 2022. 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 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	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 the policy effectively to ensure that pupils are kept safe. The school responds appropriately to any concerns raised about pupils' safety and welfare, and to any concerns about the behaviour of adults in the community. Advice is sought from external agencies when needed, and timely referrals are made as appropriate. Pupils are confident that they can share any concerns they may have with a trusted adult; that they will receive a response; and that action will be taken if needed. Records of safeguarding confirm that this happens in practice. Safeguarding leaders are trained as required, and they ensure that all staff are also trained so that they can meet their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding. Suitable arrangements are made for governors' safeguarding training.
- 2.5 Staff understand how to respond to disclosures of child-on-child abuse, and they understand the importance of reporting low-level concerns about adults or pupils. They are sensitive to the vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND, and alert to mental health issues. They understand that bullying can be a safeguarding issue and are alert to any bullying which occurs in the school. Staff understand the school's whistleblowing procedures and use them effectively. Pupils state that the school teaches them to stay safe online. The governors of the school oversee safeguarding through regular reports to the board and an annual review of policy and implementation. They ensure suitable recruitment checks are made on staff before they begin work at the school. This includes ensuring that references are taken appropriately and that they are checked against the list of those prohibited from teaching. Where a member of staff begins work before a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check has been seen by the school, a check is made against the barred list; all other required checks are confirmed as completed satisfactorily; and an assessment of risk is made with appropriate safeguards implemented.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.7 The school carries out appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors. An accurate register is kept as required. This now includes the dates of all checks undertaken, including the dates of checks of qualifications.

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

- 2.8 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]

2.9 The school meets the standard.

2.10 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge. The action plan from the previous inspection has been implemented effectively. Senior leaders fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, 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 inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mr Bill Burn

Reporting inspector

Mr David Scott

Assistant reporting inspector