

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Brooke Priory School

December 2019



School's details

School	Brooke Priory School			
DfE number	857/6003			
Address	Brooke Priory School Station Approach Oakham Rutland LE15 6QW			
Telephone number	01572 724778			
Email address	info@brooke.rutland.sch.uk			
Headteacher	Mr Duncan Flint			
Proprietor Chair of governors	Mrs Elizabeth Bell			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	175			
	EYFS	47	Pre-Prep	31
	Prep	97		
Date of visit	4 December 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Brooke Priory School is a co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of two and eleven years. Founded in 1989, the school moved to its current site close to the centre of Oakham in Rutland in 1996. The school is owned and managed by a sole proprietor. In September 2019, a new head of the school was appointed and the former head took on the role of principal, acting as an advisor for the current head. The school consists of three sections: the Early Years Foundation stage, (EYFS) for children aged two to five years; the Pre-Prep, for pupils aged five to seven years; and the Prep, for pupils aged seven to eleven years.
- 1.2 The school has 20 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom one has an education, health and care plan. Nine pupils speak English as an additional language.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.3 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 progress monitoring visit on 13 March 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (publication of safeguarding policy on website)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirement.
- 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 requirement.
- 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 three deputy DSLs, and records show that as a safeguarding team they consult appropriately and swiftly with other agencies, including psychologists, local safeguarding partners and the police, if pupils are in need or at risk. The DSL has a good understanding of local thresholds, and also a clear recognition of when bullying may need to be considered as a safeguarding concern.
- 2.5 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).
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 The school safeguarding team works together with the proprietor to produce an annual safeguarding report which includes appropriate reference to the statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*. The proprietor has a clear understanding of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 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]

2.10 The school meets the standard.

2.1 Those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standard relating to safeguarding is consistently met, and the well-being of pupils is actively promoted. Members of the leadership and management team understand their safeguarding responsibilities sufficiently well and have full regard to the statutory guidance provided in *KCSIE*.

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 inspectors held discussions with the head, the designated safeguarding lead and other members of staff. They also met with the proprietor and a group of pupils. They scrutinised a range of policies and other documentation. They considered evidence of referrals and consultations with children's services and the monitoring of pupils of concern.