



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Cambridge Arts and Sciences Ltd (CATS and CSVPA)

April 2023

School's details

School	Cambridge Arts and Sciences Ltd (CATS and CSVPA)		
DfE number	873/6022		
Address	Cambridge Arts and Sciences Ltd 1 High Street Chesterton Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB4 1NQ		
Telephone number	01223 314431		
Email address	registrar@catscambridge.com		
Principal	Mr Dominic Tomalin		
Chair of governors	Mr Christopher Stacey		
Proprietor	CEG College Limited		
Age range	13 to 24		
Number of pupils on roll	333		
	Day pupils	39	Boarders 294
	Seniors	41	Sixth Form 292
Date of inspection	27 April 2023		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Cambridge Arts and Sciences Ltd consists of CATS Cambridge and its sister school, Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, CSVPA. Both schools are co-educational, international schools, located on three sites in the city of Cambridge. Both schools offer day and boarding places, with one boarding house on the CATS site and a second a short walk away from CSVPA. Pupils come from a large number of countries overseas. The schools are owned by CATS Global Schools, the trading name of Bright Scholar (UK) Holdings Ltd, which has six schools in the United Kingdom and one in Boston in the United States. The directors form the governing body with the chief executive officer as the chair. The school has identified 39 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and all receive specialist help. No pupil has an education, health and care plan. There are 329 pupils who speak English as an additional language, 224 of whom receive support. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in September 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 focused compliance and educational quality inspection on 21 to 23 September 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 6 and 8	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 9	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 6 and 8]

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 standards.
- 2.4 The school implements its safeguarding policy effectively. Pupils confirm that they are confident to express any concerns that they have, that staff and school leaders listen to them and that action would be taken promptly if necessary. Records of safeguarding concerns confirm this. Methods of recording safeguarding information about pupils are effective and follow statutory guidance. Pupils confirm that they feel safe and that they are well educated about any risks, including those resulting from online behaviour.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and DDSLs undertake appropriate advanced level training. They carry out effective training for new staff at induction and, annually, for all staff. Staff receive weekly safeguarding updates. Those spoken with demonstrated suitable understanding of child-on-child abuse, including the vulnerability of any pupils with protected characteristics. They demonstrated suitable awareness of the increased vulnerability of international pupils, who represent many cultures and speak a wide variety of languages. Staff discussions confirmed their understanding of how to report any allegations about colleagues, including any which involved attitudes to pupils' protected characteristics. They also confirmed that they would use the school's whistleblowing procedure with confidence. Staff know how to raise any low-level concerns and are confident in doing so. A suitable log of these concerns is kept.
- 2.6 The DSL acts appropriately and promptly in accordance with local multi-agency procedures and maintains close links with the local authority designated officer (LADO), seeking advice and referring concerns when appropriate. There is a suitable recruitment process which ensures necessary checks are completed before appointment. Governors are suitably trained in safeguarding. They provide effective support and challenge to the safeguarding team and review policy and practice annually, consequently providing effective oversight.
- 2.7 The school now ensures that pupils are enabled to eat healthily through the provision of an additional servery to make food more readily accessible.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 9]

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy which is implemented effectively. Risks, including those associated with pupils travelling between the school sites, are recognised and mitigated with appropriate actions. The school is also aware of the risks of pupils missing meals. It now has a meal monitoring system in place. This ensures that any pupils of concern because they miss meals are quickly identified and support is provided. Effective assessment of how to mitigate such risks has led to the provision of an additional servery for pupils' meals.

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

- 2.10 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; NMS 2]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 Governance ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively. They have implemented the action plan required by the previous inspection effectively, including by ensuring easy accessibility to dining facilities for all pupils, including those in the most distant boarding house. Consequently, the standards are consistently met and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.

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 the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mrs Kate McCarey

Reporting inspector