



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Dolphin School

March 2022

School's details

School	Dolphin School			
DfE number	872/6010			
Address	Dolphin School Waltham Road Hurst Berkshire RG10 0FR England			
Telephone number	0118 934 1277			
Email address	enquiries@dolphinschool.com			
Headteacher	Mr Adam Hurst			
Proprietor	Dolphin School Ltd			
Age range	3 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	221			
	EYFS	35	Lower School	80
	Middle School	78	Upper School	28
Date of visit	8 March 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Dolphin School is a co-educational independent day school situated in a rural setting in Berkshire. It is owned by a proprietorial body, and a board of advisors is delegated to liaise between the proprietors and the headmaster. The school comprises four sections: the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), for pupils in Nursery and Reception; lower school, for pupils in Years 1 to 3; middle school, for pupils in Years 4 to 6; and upper school, for pupils in Years 7 and 8. The school has 59 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One has an education, health and care plan. There are 18 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and quality inspection in June/July 2021.

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 focused compliance inspection in June/July 2021.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	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 Implementation of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for pupils' needs as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE). The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse and appropriate guidance regarding possible abuse by one or more children against another child, including linking such abuse to bullying. The DSL acts on and refers the early signs of risk or need to appropriate external agencies and ensures the school listens to the views of individual pupils as required by KCSIE. Alternative persons of appropriate status are provided in the absence of the DSL. The training of those with safeguarding responsibilities is up to date and in line with local requirements.
- 2.5 Records of safeguarding issues are well organised and kept confidential. Effective communication is maintained with parents where appropriate. Staff are clear that they cannot promise confidentiality if a parent makes a disclosure which requires action to be taken by the DSL or external agencies. Pupils receive guidance on staying safe and show suitable understanding of what they have been taught, including in relation to e-safety. Monitoring and filtering of technology is effective. Pupils report they feel safe, listened to and receive a response if they express concerns.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy gives contact details as required for local agencies. Appropriate arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures; they include seeking 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 Staff show effective understanding of their responsibilities and are aware of the context of the school and the needs of individual pupils, including those with SEND. Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are included within the safeguarding policy and appropriate checks made on other adults connected with the school. Statutory guidance is followed in the recruitment of volunteers. Staff receive annual training and regular updates on safeguarding issues. Staff interviewed showed good understanding of the training, the code of conduct and whistleblowing protocols.
- 2.8 The advisory board conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of the safeguarding policy and procedures and this involves the directors appropriately, who are the school's proprietors. The member of the advisory board designated as having special safeguarding responsibility communicates regularly with the school's safeguarding leads.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 All the required checks on staff, advisory board members and directors are carried out and completed before they take up their posts. The school does not employ supply staff. Contractors send the school

up-to-date information on checks they have undertaken on their employees, and the school makes appropriate further checks on arrival.

- 2.11 The school maintains correctly an accurate single central register of appointments which includes the dates on which all checks have been completed.

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

- 2.12 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]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Appropriate procedures are implemented which allow the senior leaders, advisory board and directors to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements effectively and monitor compliance with standards and other statutory advice, including those concerned with safeguarding and staff recruitment. In this way the leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently and the well-being of pupils is promoted.

3. Summary of evidence

- 3.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, bursar, other staff and a director. They talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.