



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Exeter School

September 2022

School's details

School	Exeter School			
DfE number	878/6033			
Registered charity number	1093080			
Address	Exeter School Victoria Park Road Exeter Devon EX2 4NS			
Telephone number	01392 307080			
Email address	head@exeterschool.org.uk			
Headteacher	Ms Louise Simpson			
Chair of governors	Mr James Gaisford			
Age range	7 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	960			
	Juniors	191	Seniors	548
	Sixth Form	221		
Date of inspection	28 September 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Exeter School is an independent co-educational day school. It is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors. The school is organised into the junior school, for pupils aged 7 to 11; the senior school, for those aged 11 to 16; and the sixth form. The school has 132 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. Two pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 27 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance and educational quality inspection in December 2021.

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 and educational quality inspection on 7 to 10 December 2021. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

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 6, paragraph 32 (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (manner in which complaints are handled)	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]

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's safeguarding policy is implemented effectively to promote pupils' welfare. The school liaises promptly and effectively with the local safeguarding children partnership (LSCP) to safeguard children in need or at risk, in line with local procedures. Staff, including supply staff and volunteers, are appropriately trained to recognise signs of abuse, including child-on-child abuse. They respond promptly to any concerns about pupils' wellbeing. Any incidents of inappropriate sexualised behaviour are handled effectively. Suitable systems operate effectively to listen to pupils, who confirm that they feel safe at school. Pupils confirm that, if the need arises, there is always someone to speak to, that they receive a response, and prompt action is taken. Pupils are taught effectively about how to stay safe online and appropriate filters operate to control use of technology in the school. Suitable procedures are implemented to deal with allegations against adults working with children. These are understood by staff. Senior leaders report such allegations appropriately to the appropriate statutory bodies.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs have undertaken training at appropriate levels and this is updated within required timescales. The DSL ensures that all new members of staff receive appropriate induction in safeguarding. Staff are aware of the staff code of conduct and whistleblowing procedures. The DSL and deputy DSLs are effectively supported by governors, who have been trained to understand their responsibilities. They monitor and review safeguarding procedures effectively, including through a formal annual review.
- 2.6 The school has suitably robust procedures in place to ensure that all required checks on staff are completed before a person begins work. Since the previous inspection they have obtained, verified and recorded suitable references for all new staff. Procedures have regard to the guidance contained in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022*.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 A range of information is published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. This includes details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health

and safety and first aid. The school publishes details of its complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year. It publishes details of its provision for any pupils with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. It also publishes particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year and inspection reports. It provides to parents at least annually a suitable report of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Parental complaints are handled effectively through the school's appropriate three-stage process. This consists of informal and formal stages and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school. Each stage has clear time scales which are followed appropriately. At the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Governors and senior leaders have implemented the action plan effectively. The leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, 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 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 a governor. He talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Chris Manville

Reporting inspector