



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Lime House School

March 2021



School's details

School	Lime House School			
DfE number	909/6001			
Address	Lime House School Holm Hill Dalston Carlisle Cumbria CA5 7BX			
Telephone number	01288 710225			
Email address	office@limehouseschool.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Mary Robertson-Barnett			
Proprietors	Mr N Rice, Mrs D Rice and Mrs J Fisher			
Age range	7 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	154			
	Day pupils	57	Boarders	97
	Juniors	10	Seniors	90
	Sixth Form	54		
Date of visit	25 March 2021			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Lime House School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged between seven and eighteen years. Located in a rural setting on the outskirts of Carlisle, it is owned, governed and managed by three proprietors, one of whom is the former headmaster. The school comprises a junior and senior school on the same site, with some shared facilities. There are five boarding houses, three for males and two for females. The school has seventeen pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom two have an education, health and care plan. There are 85 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in January 2020.

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 and educational quality inspection in January 2020.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff); NMS 14	Met
Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet, washing and changing facilities)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance of premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 28 (drinking water and water supply)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 30 (boarding accommodation); NMS 5 and 20	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (information for parents)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met
NMS 17 (securing boarders' views)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]

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 safeguarding policy is implemented effectively throughout the school, including in boarding. It is supported by suitable safer recruitment and whistleblowing policies, and an appropriate staff code of conduct. Suitable procedures are in place to listen to pupils, who confirm that they feel safe and have sufficient opportunities and channels to express concerns. They are confident that they will be supported appropriately, and suitable action is taken when they express a concern. The school liaises promptly and effectively with the local safeguarding children partnership. Discussion with staff confirmed that they understand their responsibilities to safeguard children. They readily share and record concerns and know that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary. They understand current definitions of abuse, recognise the vulnerability of pupils with SEND, and are alert to the risk of peer-on-peer abuse. Records show that, on joining the school, new members of staff, including those with responsibility for boarders, receive appropriate induction. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSL have the required levels of up-to-date advanced training for their roles, including training in mental health and pupils' well-being. The DSL ensures that all staff receive regular formal training and informal updates on safeguarding practice and issues. Records of this training are systematically kept and show that the training for all staff is current and appropriate. The school conducts regular reviews of the work of boarding staff and provides for their continued professional development.
- 2.4 Suitable procedures are in place to deal with allegations against adults working with children, and correct referral of such allegations is made to the appropriate bodies. In interview, pupils demonstrated a clear awareness of the dangers of social media and the use of the internet. Appropriate filtering systems are applied for the use of technology, and suitable arrangements were made to promote the safeguarding of pupils online during the COVID-19 period of remote learning. The proprietors provide effective support for the DSL, and the school's safeguarding policy and practice are reviewed annually by senior leaders and the proprietors. Records show that the school conducts the correct checks on all the staff it appoints, prior to starting work, as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. This includes checks on sports coaches, in particular with regard to references and employment history.

Securing boarders' views [NMS 17]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school has introduced several measures since the previous inspection to enable and encourage boarders to contribute their views on boarding provision. Discussion with pupils confirmed that they feel they have sufficient opportunities to raise concerns or make a complaint and that the school listens to their views, taking action when necessary.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 6]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The proprietors ensure that the school complies with relevant health and safety laws by drawing up and effectively implementing written health and safety and risk assessment policies. The school follows government guidance rigorously with regard to COVID-19, and risk assessments and procedures are updated as required. The school has conducted a thorough review of security and taken effective measures to address any deficiencies. Regular tests and checks are conducted on gas, electricity and water supplies, including checks for the presence of legionella.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 15]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 Pupils are properly supervised through the effective deployment of school staff who are suitably trained and qualified. Day pupils and boarders say that they are confident that a member of staff is always available in the event of an emergency. Boarding staff follow an appropriate induction programme, and their work is effectively and systematically reviewed so that suitable further training can be identified and provided where necessary.

Suitability of staff [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18; NMS 14]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 Through effective monitoring, the school now ensures that it carries out the required checks on all the staff it employs to ensure their suitability to work with children, including boarders, in a timely manner. This includes a declaration of medical fitness for sports coaches and checks on prohibition from teaching. The school conducts the required checks on the guardians it appoints, as well as on any adult members of their household.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Suitable changing and showering facilities and toilets for the sole use of pupils are provided throughout the school.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25]

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 The school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided are maintained to a standard such that, as far as is reasonably practical, the health, safety and welfare of the pupils is ensured.

Premises and accommodation – water supply [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28]

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 Suitable and readily accessible drinking water facilities, separate from toilet facilities and clearly marked, are provided. Toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water.

Premises and accommodation – boarding accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 30; NMS 5 and 20]

- 2.19 The school meets the standards.
- 2.20 Suitable sleeping and living accommodation is provided for boarders. It is effectively protected from access by unauthorised persons following a thorough review of security arrangements in all boarding houses. Surveillance equipment does not intrude unreasonably on boarders' privacy. Lodgings arranged by the school to accommodate pupils provide satisfactory accommodation and supervision, are checked before use and monitored at least annually. The school interviews any adult responsible for the accommodation of pupils, takes up references and records a satisfactory assessment before pupils are placed in lodgings. The school ensures that those adults providing lodgings for pupils on its behalf have undergone safeguarding training that is updated in accordance with the advice of the local safeguarding partnership. It has a suitable written agreement with each adult providing lodgings on its behalf. A member of the boarding staff discusses accommodation arrangements with each pupil placed in lodgings at least termly and records the outcomes of such discussions.

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

- 2.21 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 13]

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 The proprietors ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role; that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively, and that they actively promote the well-being of pupils, so that the school meets the independent school standards consistently.
- 2.24 Leaders and managers have effectively implemented new measures to promote health and safety, including in boarding, and the required documentation relating to boarding, including documents specific to guardianship and the provision of lodgings, is now all available.

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 National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, 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, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietors. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.