

## **LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE**

Long Sutton, Hook, Hampshire RG29 1TB

**14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL**

Lord Wandsworth College is a co-educational boarding and day school set on a 1200-acre rural estate with a working farm in Hampshire. It was endowed in 1912 as an agricultural college for pupils who had lost parents through death, divorce or separation. In time it took pupils funded through fees and in 1957 became a foundation school for pupils between the ages of 11 and 18. It admitted sixth-form girls in 1988 and became fully co-educational in 1997.

The school is a charity with its governors acting as trustees. Boarders are accommodated in a mixed junior house (Years 7 and 8) and in three girls' and four boys' senior houses (Years 9 to 13). In line with its founding ethos, the school admits with fee remission foundation pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

At the time of the visit there were 583 pupils, 366 boys and 217 girls, in the school; of this total 245 are day pupils, 78 full boarders, 80 weekly boarders and 180 flexi boarders. The sixth form currently has 169 pupils. The school has identified and supports 126 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); 40 of these receive specialise support for dyslexia, dyspraxia and other learning difficulties. No pupils have statements of special educational needs or EHC plans. There are 38 pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) of whom 31 receive specialist support. The previous inspection took place in March 2015.

### **PURPOSE OF THE VISIT**

This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the integrated inspection on 10 to 13 March 2015. The focus of the visit was on compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, particularly those concerning fire precautions and drills, safeguarding, staff recruitment and checks on other adults and the quality of leadership and management.

### **INSPECTION FINDINGS**

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7.(a) and 7.(b), and 8.(a) and 8.(b), and National Minimum Standard 11 under Child protection]**

The school meets the Regulations and NMS.

The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. Safeguarding procedures are implemented consistently to ensure the welfare of pupils, including boarders, by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance.

The designated safeguarding leader (DSL) and deputy DSL have appropriate and up-to-date levels of safeguarding training for their roles, which includes working with external agencies. The school liaises closely with Hampshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and participates in appropriate interventions both for children in need of external support and for those at risk of abuse, ensuring that children receive the right help to minimise risks. Suitable procedures are in place to deal with any disclosures from pupils and with any allegations against members of staff. Child protection records are suitably detailed, held securely and demonstrate that any concerns or necessary referrals are promptly addressed.

All members of staff, including those with boarding roles, have received suitable safeguarding training which is regularly updated in line with locally agreed procedures and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) – effective from 5 September 2016. Staff induction is well-planned and includes all required safeguarding and fire training elements, ensuring that all new staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

Safeguarding training records are held electronically by the leadership and include confirmation that all members of staff currently working in the school have read and understood Part 1 of KCSIE and that relevant staff have been issued with Annex A of KCSIE; a number of peripatetic and part-time staff who have yet to return to duties will not be allowed to do so until their training has been updated and they demonstrate that they have read the required parts of the above document.

Members of staff who were interviewed, including those recently appointed and those with boarding roles, demonstrated familiarity with both KCSIE and the school's safeguarding policy and had a clear understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern. The pupils interviewed affirmed that they feel safe at school, receive appropriate guidance as to how to keep safe including on the internet, and feel able to speak to a member of staff should they have any concerns about their safety.

**Welfare, health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7.(a) and 7.(b) and 8.(a) and 8.(b), and National Minimum Standard 14.1 under staff recruitment and checks on other adults]**

The school meets the Regulations and NMS.

All required safer recruitment checks including obtaining at least two references are carried out prior to the starting date of all new members of staff. These checks are recorded in a suitable manner in the single central register. Appointment panels always include at least one member of staff with safer recruitment training.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12, and the National Minimum Standard 7.1 under Fire precautions and drills]**

The school meets the Regulations and NMS.

There is a suitable fire safety risk assessment in place and the school takes appropriate action to minimise these risks. Fire safety records are maintained, both for training and for evacuations. Induction fire safety training is in place for new members of staff. Fire evacuation drills are held as required at least once each term including in boarding time. Pupils and members of staff interviewed demonstrated awareness of what they should do in the event of a fire.

**Provision of information to parents (ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32.(1)(c))**

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 in and management of schools [Part 8, paragraph 34.(1)(a) and (b)]**

The school meets the Regulations.

The leadership and management of the school including its governance demonstrated the skills and knowledge required to fulfill their responsibilities effectively so that the independent schools standards relating to safeguarding, staff recruitment checks and fire safety are met consistently.

**REGULATORY ACTION POINTS**

The school meets the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015.