



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Rydes Hill Preparatory School

October 2022

School's details

School	Rydes Hill Preparatory School			
DfE number	936/6049			
Registered charity number	299411			
Address	Rydes Hill Preparatory School Rydes Hill House Aldershot Road Guildford Surrey GU2 8DP			
Telephone number	01483 563160			
Email address	office@rydeshill.com			
Headteacher	Mrs Sarah Norville			
Chair of governors	Mrs Katie Cardona			
Age range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	145			
	EYFS	60	Juniors	85
Date of inspection	12 October 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Rydes Hill Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school. It is co-educational up to the age of 7 and thereafter is a single-sex school educating female pupils. The school was founded in 1945 by the order of Daughters of Mary and Joseph. Ownership of the school transferred in 1989 to a charitable trust, members of which act as a board of governors and hold proprietorial responsibility. The school has identified 19 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and additional support is provided for them. One pupil has an education health and care (EHC) plan. There are 23 pupils who have English as their additional language (EAL), and they receive appropriate support. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in November 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 compliance inspection on 10 to 12 November 2021. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

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 the 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 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively, including in the EYFS. There is timely and appropriate communication with the statutory agencies when this is required. Senior leaders ensure appropriate support for pupils' needs, including those with SEND. Staff listen to children and take appropriate and timely action when they raise concerns. Pupils are educated effectively in how to keep safe online and understand how to do so. Filtering and monitoring of technology is appropriate.
- 2.5 All staff have received suitable training on the recent changes in statutory guidance and online safety, including their Prevent responsibilities. When new staff are appointed, they complete a comprehensive induction process which ensures they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff spoken with are familiar with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B. They understand the code of conduct for staff and whistleblowing procedures. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles. They have the appropriate level of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular updates to all staff and opportunities to discuss any changes to safeguarding policies and their implementation.
- 2.6 Staff recognise the importance of 'early help' and intervention strategies, including for those in the EYFS. They are clear about the procedures for reporting any concerns about pupils and they implement these appropriately. Staff understand the types of child-on-child abuse that can occur and the need to react to and appropriately report such behaviours. Appropriate and detailed records of any safeguarding concerns are maintained. Records of safeguarding incidents demonstrate a culture in which detailed analysis of any incidents takes place. This is supported by effective monitoring systems, overseen by both the chair of governors and the governing board safeguarding lead. Senior leaders liaise appropriately and promptly both with parents and the local safeguarding partnership.
- 2.7 There are appropriate measures in place to handle any allegations against adults working in the school. Staff understand these and are prepared to report any concerns they may have. The governing board undertakes an annual safeguarding review with due diligence. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item for all governing board meetings. Governors demonstrate rigour in their oversight of arrangements, which includes undertaking a review of any safeguarding incidents that may occur. They ensure appropriate staff recruitment checks are undertaken and conduct regular checks of the single central register (SCR) and staff files. The school now has suitable arrangements to ensure that when a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for new staff is delayed a check is made against the barred list. Additionally, if required, an appropriate risk assessment is made, in line with the school's recruitment policy. All governors have recently received appropriate training in safeguarding and two governors have attended safer recruitment training.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.

- 2.9 Since the previous inspection the school has undertaken all required checks on the suitability of all staff, volunteers and governors as required by the statutory guidance. This includes DBS checks. The school ensures that all the appropriate checks are conducted in a timely manner before staff commence work at the school. The staff recruitment policy has been updated and reflects the current requirements. Senior leaders and governors have monitored the recruitment process effectively since November 2021. They understand that although suitable systems and checking processes are now in place these require continued focus to ensure that recruitment processes remain robust.

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 and are provided to parents on request.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The governors and senior leaders have addressed all of the points in the school's action plan effectively. They have implemented necessary actions and appropriate measures are in place to support ongoing compliance. Governors and senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge to ensure their duties and responsibilities are fulfilled effectively to ensure 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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, 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. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Tony Halliwell

Reporting inspector