



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Centre Academy East Anglia

March 2022

School's details

School	Centre Academy East Anglia			
DfE number	935/6058			
Address	Centre Academy East Anglia Church Road Brettenham Ipswich IP7 7QR			
Telephone number	01449 736404			
Email address	admin@centreacademy.net			
Headteacher	Mrs Kim Salthouse			
Proprietors	Mr Michael Murphy and Mrs Margaret Murphy			
Age range	7 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	61			
	Day pupils	54	Boarders	7
	EYFS	0	Juniors	7
	Seniors	43	Sixth Form	11
Date of visit	28 March 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Centre Academy East Anglia is a co-educational day and boarding school for pupils with special educational needs (SEND). Currently there are no pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Boarding provision is available from the age of 14. The school's boarding provision is inspected separately by Ofsted. Established in 2010 near Ipswich in Suffolk, the school is owned by the proprietors and supported by an advisory board of governors, which includes the principal. All pupils require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 53 have an education, health and care plan. Three pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in May 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 regulatory compliance Inspection of May 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	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, paragraphs 7(a) and (b)]

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 implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and these are based on the most up-to-date statutory guidance; *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSIE)* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*. The safeguarding team, including a newly appointed designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and two deputy DSLs, has made significant changes to the safeguarding arrangements since the previous inspection. The profile of safeguarding has been raised successfully across the school and with parents. The safeguarding team has recently received appropriate levels of safeguarding training, including inter-agency training. Further courses have been taken with regard to preventing radicalisation, child sexual and criminal exploitation, how to safeguard looked-after children, safer recruitment and online safety. The content of this training has been clearly understood and implemented. All staff have received recent comprehensive safeguarding training in line with the local authority safeguarding partnership. They have been trained in KCSIE including Part 1 and Annexes A and B and their understanding is checked by the safeguarding team. They have undergone a number of on-line courses in safeguarding as well as face-to-face training by the safeguarding team. In discussion the staff showed suitable understanding of the training they have received. New staff have undergone suitable induction training. A detailed record of safeguarding training is kept for all staff.
- 2.5 There has been prompt and effective liaison between the DSL and the relevant local authorities and children's services. The safeguarding team seeks advice when necessary. Pupils reported in discussion that they feel safe in school and should any concerns arise, they would report them and felt confident they would receive a response and matters would be dealt with swiftly and appropriately. Documentation seen during the visit confirmed that any concerns are dealt with immediately and thorough records are kept. Since the previous inspection the recording system has been fully audited and suitably improved. Child protection records are held securely and with suitable confidentiality. This enables welfare considerations for individual pupils to be identified consistently and acted upon, and the school to be able to identify patterns of concern. Pupils' well-being is further supported by effective personal, social and health education, including aspects of mental health. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online and the school has appropriate controls of the use of technology.
- 2.6 Staff confirmed during discussion that they have a secure understanding of the whistleblowing procedure and would not hesitate to contact senior leaders or the proprietors' representatives. The school liaises appropriately with parents about any safeguarding concerns and contact details have been made available to parents to report any concerns to senior leaders or the proprietors' representatives.
- 2.7 The senior management team has an efficient system to collate all safeguarding, behaviour and pastoral records for individual pupils to ensure their welfare is effectively monitored and any patterns of behaviour or concerns can be quickly identified. Weekly staff meetings are used to raise any concerns by staff who are kept fully informed of any new developments or concerns with pupils.

Access to boarding accommodation by other pupils and staff who are not members of the boarding team is now suitably restricted and no pupils, including boarders, have access to staff accommodation.

- 2.8 The safeguarding governor maintains close contact with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and offers appropriate support. Governors have received safeguarding training and are now more proactive in the school with regards to monitoring safeguarding policies and procedures, including through arrangements for an annual review.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy and a strategic approach to ensuring risk assessments are kept up to date and appropriate. Risk assessments associated with the site, including boarding areas, are appropriate to safeguard the welfare of pupils. Each individual pupil has a risk assessment appropriate for their needs.

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

- 2.11 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]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The proprietors have ensured that 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 well-being of the pupils. Oversight is now thorough, policy implementation and management of safeguarding and risk assessment are appropriate. The principal works closely with the senior leadership and staff on behalf of the proprietors. The proprietors now ensure effective review of policies and procedures and monitor their implementation effectively.

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 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 chief executive officer who acts as chair of governors on behalf of the proprietor. They visited the boarding areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.