



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Thorpe House School

December 2021

School's details

School	Thorpe House School			
DfE number	825/6026			
Registered charity number	292683			
Address	Thorpe House School 29 Oval Way Chalfont St Peter Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire SL9 8QA			
Telephone number	01753 882474			
Email address	office@thorpehouse.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Nicholas Pietrek			
Chair of governors	Mr David Stanning			
Age range	3 to 16			
School	Thorpe House School			
Number of pupils on roll	263			
	EYFS	8	Juniors	82
	Seniors	173		
Date of visit	6 December 2021			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Thorpe House School is an independent day school for male pupils situated in a residential area of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. The school is a charitable educational trust with a board of trustees, all of whom act as governors. The school has 83 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom two have an education, health and care plan. Four pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL).

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) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework. It also reviewed the school's proposals for material change, as requested by the DfE.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	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 Arrangements are implemented effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including children in the EYFS, by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance. This includes ensuring a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a wide variety of people to whom they can turn to for support and many different ways of requesting this. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns and that appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding which are suitably detailed. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the school has sufficient filtering and monitoring procedures in place to ensure appropriate use of technology at all times.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) liaises effectively and promptly with the relevant local authorities and children's services, where necessary, including in making a referral of a safeguarding concern. All staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed. Staff understand the different types of peer-on-peer abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND, and have a clear understanding of matters relating to sexual harassment. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise. The school's safeguarding procedures include suitable recruitment checks on all staff.
- 2.6 The school has ensured suitable arrangements are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain all safeguarding requirements. The proprietor ensures suitable oversight of safeguarding arrangements through the regular review of procedures and policies at governor meetings, including an annual review of safeguarding.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school has a suitable policy to promote good behaviour and sets out suitable sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils' misbehaviour. The policy is implemented effectively. Sanctions reflect the degree of misbehaviour appropriately. These are applied consistently by staff and appropriate records are kept of the sanctions imposed for serious misbehaviour. Suitable behaviour management strategies have been implemented and these are effectively designed to improve pupil behaviour. The school rejects the use of corporal punishment.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.

- 2.10 The school has further reviewed its anti-bullying policy since the previous inspection to include strategies drawn up by the pupils. The policy is fully and effectively implemented and is designed to prevent bullying in so far as reasonably practical. Pupils confirm that they receive appropriate guidance and that they understand the importance of reporting bullying behaviour. They know they will be listened to and can report incidents without fear of further bullying or intimidation. This can be done in a variety of ways, including the use of anonymous reporting or use of a dedicated helpline telephone number.
- 2.11 Staff confirm they have been appropriately trained on the relevant statutory guidance on bullying in schools and show effective understanding of their training. They understand the importance of applying sanctions for bullying consistently and that the sanctions should properly reflect the nature of any bullying incident.

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

- 2.12 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]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. In particular, required procedures in safeguarding, behaviour and bullying are implemented and monitored 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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, 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 chair of governors. They talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.