



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

## **Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit**

**St Ambrose Preparatory School**

**March 2020**



## School's details

<b>School name</b>	St Ambrose Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	358/6004			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	254312			
<b>Address</b>	St Ambrose Preparatory school Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 0HF			
<b>Telephone number</b>	0161 903 9193			
<b>Email address</b>	secretary@stambroseprep.co.uk			
<b>Headmaster</b>	Mr Frank Driscoll			
<b>Proprietor</b>	The Province Leadership Team of the Congregation of Christian Brothers			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	108			
	<b>EYFS</b>	17	<b>Infants</b>	17
	<b>Juniors</b>	74		
<b>Date of visit</b>	16 March 2020			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Ambrose Preparatory School is an independent Roman Catholic school for pupils aged between three and eleven years. It is registered as a single-sex school for male pupils. Once part of St Ambrose College, it is now an independent establishment. The school is administered by the Congregation of Christian Brothers, who are its trustees, supported by a local governing body. It consists of an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) department, comprising Nursery and Reception classes; an infant department, for pupils aged from five to seven; and a junior department, for those aged from seven to eleven. There are four pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, all of whom receive additional support. No pupil has an education, health and care plan. Two pupils have English as an additional language and their needs are supported by their classroom teachers.

### 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 Progress Monitoring Visit on 23 October 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.9	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]; EYFS 3.9

#### 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 and requirement.
- 2.4 Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance from the Secretary of State, and the requirements of the Prevent strategy. The designated safeguarding lead and his assistant are appropriately trained at the correct level; in turn they provide suitable induction and training for other staff, and check they understand it. Both staff and pupils feel able to raise any concerns and these are appropriately managed by the school in conjunction with local agencies and, where appropriate, pupils' families. Pupils do not have access to mobile phones during the day, and they receive appropriate training on ICT and online safety. Suitable protocols are in place for the use of staff devices, especially in EYFS. Governors receive regular reports on safeguarding enabling them to review both policies and practice: the safeguarding governor is a frequent visitor to the school. Staff understand the appropriate code of conduct to follow in their dealings with pupils. Pupils are confident there are adults to whom they can talk should they need to do so. Staff work together effectively to identify and meet pupils' needs.
- 2.5 The recruitment policy specifies that written references must always be obtained, and that if, exceptionally, a verbal reference is taken a full record is kept of what was said. Written references are now held for all members of staff. These checks and checks of any gaps in previous employment are completed before staff start work.

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

- 2.6 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]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, especially in relationship to staff recruitment, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

### **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 the requirement 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 inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the safeguarding governor. He talked with groups of pupils, and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.