



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Hopelands Preparatory School

April 2022

School's details

School name	Hopelands Preparatory School			
DfE number	916/6051			
Registered charity number	1007707			
Address	Hopelands Preparatory School 38 Regent Street Stonehouse Gloucestershire GL10 2AD			
Telephone number	01453 822164			
Email address	admin@hopelands.org.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Sheila Bradburn			
Chair of governors	Mr Richard James			
Age Range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	73			
	EYFS	13	Juniors	60
Date of visit	27 April 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Hopelands Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school. It was founded in 1954 and is accommodated in two large Victorian houses in Stonehouse. It is a charitable foundation administered by a board of governors. The school has seven pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). None has an education, health and care plan. Two pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 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 focused compliance and educational quality inspection on 12 to 15 October 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.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 13 (first aid); EYFS 3.25	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (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 Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for the needs of pupils, including children in the EYFS.
- 2.5 Staff demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the procedures staff must follow including those for whistleblowing, children missing in education and the staff code of conduct. Procedures are implemented effectively to safeguard all pupils including those at risk and those in need. Staff show suitable understanding of their responsibilities and have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting potential issues, including child-on-child abuse and the vulnerability of pupils with SEND. Staff are aware of who to go to if they have a concern or receive a disclosure and that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary. They act on their understanding effectively.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy provides contact details for the required local agencies. Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are outlined in the policy and all appropriate checks on the suitability of staff, proprietors and other adults are completed before they take up a role. The training for staff with specific safeguarding responsibilities is in line with local requirements and statutory advice. Training for all staff is of sufficient frequency and quality. Central records of training attendance are comprehensive.
- 2.7 Discussions with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for the school confirmed that the staff and pupils receive guidance on how to address issues when they arise and receive appropriate support. The DSL acts immediately on any early signs of risk or need and monitors pupils together with appropriate staff. The school listens to the views of the pupils in all safeguarding matters as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. Pupils confirm that the school listens to them and responds to issues quickly. Effective and timely communication is provided to parents. Referrals to children's services and the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO) are detailed and timely and the school has an appropriate relationship with other outside agencies. Records of safeguarding are suitably detailed. Pupils are supported in learning how to keep themselves safe, including online, and there is effective monitoring and filtering of technology.
- 2.8 Suitable arrangements for handling allegations against all staff, and potential misconduct are clearly included in the safeguarding policy. Records show that the school seeks advice from the LADO where required. Records show that procedures are followed effectively, and the school considers advice given effectively. The school understands its role in reporting any person to the relevant regulatory bodies where necessary. There is appropriate oversight by governors and they effectively carry out an annual review of safeguarding.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – first aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13; EYFS 3.25]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard and the requirements.

- 2.10 The school has a suitable first aid policy which is effectively implemented. The systems contained in the policy ensure that there is timely and competent administration of first aid throughout the school.
- 2.11 Staff are suitably trained at the appropriate levels, including in the EYFS. Two staff hold a full paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate. One of them is always on the premises and available when EYFS children are present, including on outings. The content of the PFA course undertaken by staff is in line with statutory requirements.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 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 trustees ensure that the governors and leadership and management of the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the standards are met consistently. They actively promote the well-being of pupils. The leadership and management have attended training which has ensured that their knowledge and understanding of the standards is secure. They have taken additional and appropriate steps to keep their knowledge and understanding up to date in the future.

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 inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. She visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.