



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Red Balloon Learner Centre Norwich

December 2021

School's details

School	Red Balloon, Norwich	
DfE number	926/6158	
Registered charity number	1117092	
Address	Red Balloon, Norwich 76 Earlham Road Norwich Norfolk NR2 3DF	
Telephone number	01603 622288	
Email address	heather.jolly@rbnorwich.org.uk	
Headteacher	Mrs Heather Jolly	
Proprietor	Mr Daniel Kelly	
Age Range	11 to 17	
Number of pupils on roll	20	
	Seniors	20
Date of visit	7 December 2021	

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Red Balloon Learner Centre Norwich is an independent co-educational day school, one of four centres in the Red Balloon group. The school was established in 2006 and moved to its current premises in 2009. The proprietor and founder of the school delegates the educational, welfare and financial oversight to a group of local trustees. The school has 20 pupils, all of whom require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and have an education, health and care plan. There are no pupils who receive support for 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 additional inspection of December 2019. 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 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, by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance and the school policy. This includes ensuring a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn to for support and different ways of requesting support. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns and that appropriate action is taken. This includes prompt referrals to external agencies where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff. Records of safeguarding are appropriately detailed. They provide an accurate and comprehensive account of actions taken and include suitable detail on discussions with external agencies. 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 All staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures and have a clear understanding of local thresholds for referral. Safeguarding is effectively managed, records and data effectively analysed to identify trends and patterns. 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.
- 2.6 The school has ensured suitable arrangements are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain all safeguarding requirements. The school's safeguarding procedures include recruitment checks on all staff. The proprietor ensures suitable oversight of safeguarding arrangements through the regular review of procedures, policies and appropriate safeguarding records, at trustee meetings.

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

- 2.7 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]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 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.

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 a representative of the local trustees. They talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.