

OXFORD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Forest Farm, Elsfield, Oxon, OX3 9UW

24 JANUARY 2018

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Oxford Montessori Schools consists of three co-educational day and nursery schools on separate sites in and near Oxford: Forest Farm in the village of Elsfield, for pupils aged from 2 to 16; Wolvercote on the outskirts of Oxford and St Giles in central Oxford both providing early years foundation stage (EYFS) settings for children aged 2 to 5. The school is owned by its two proprietors, one of whom is also the principal, in a limited partnership. At the time of the visit there were 125 pupils in the school, with 84 of these at Forest Farm, 23 at Wolvercote and 19 at St Giles. The main school at Forest Farm consists of three departments: nursery, primary and secondary, with 27 children in the EYFS. The school has identified across its three sites 22 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), all of whom receive additional support for a range of learning and emotional disorders. There is one pupil who has an educational, health and care (EHC) plan. The school has identified six pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL), none of whom require additional support. The previous, regulatory compliance inspection took place on 7 and 8 June 2018.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the inspection of June 2017. The focus of the visit was on the failings identified by that inspection with regard to:

- ISSR Part 3 Welfare, health and safety of pupils, safeguarding, fire safety, admissions and risk assessment, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b), 12, 15 and 16
- ISSR Part 4 Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, paragraphs 18 (2) (c)(i), (iii) and (iv), 18 (2) (e) and, with regard to the single central register, 21 (3) (a)(i), (iv), (vii) and (viii)
- ISSR Part 8 Quality of leadership in and management of schools, paragraph 34 (a), (b) and (c)

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) and EYFS requirements 3.4, 3.5 and 3.14]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The school meets the Regulations.

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. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school including children in the EYFS.

Members of staff receive suitable safeguarding induction and refresher training. Those with designated safeguarding roles at each site have also received suitable external training and demonstrated a clear

understanding of their responsibilities and detailed knowledge of safeguarding matters. There is a named person for safeguarding in each of the three EYFS settings. The school uses a checklist to ensure that all required pre-appointment checks are made. The school has ensured that, when the DBS check is not available, a separate barred list check is carried out and that checks are made to establish that those employed in teaching posts are not prohibited from teaching. The school has ensured that all staff have read and understood Part 1 of Keeping Children safe in Education (KCSIE), and that all leaders and staff who work with children have read KCSIE Annex A. Child protection records are kept securely and the school maintains suitable links with the local safeguarding authorities. The proprietor has ensured that the school's safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed at least annually. Pupils interviewed said they felt happy and safe at the school and that there was a member of staff to whom they would speak if they had a concern or anxiety. They also expressed confidence in how they might stay safe when on line. The school has ensured that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate material on line.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has ensured that a suitable fire risk assessment is undertaken for each school site although it has not yet commissioned an independent fire risk assessment for each site. Senior members of the school's own staff have identified possible fire risks and the school has taken suitable remedial actions.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – admissions and attendance [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 15]

The school meets the Regulations.

The admissions register contains all required information; and the school has ensured that pupils' original dates of admission are recorded clearly on the admission register.

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

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has ensured that a written risk assessment policy is in place and implemented effectively. Risk assessments for educational activities on the three sites and for trips and visits seek to minimize the risks to children and pupils. A daily checklist is used for each of the three EYFS settings to ensure that the nurseries are ready to receive children each morning.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18 and 21]

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has ensured that it checks each member of staff's identity, right to work in the UK and, where appropriate, qualifications and, where relevant, carries out overseas checks before employment commences. The school maintains a single central register of appointments in a suitable form and it has also ensured that every member of staff employed at the school is entered on the register, and that the register records the dates on which each person's identity, right to work in the UK, and, where appropriate, qualifications were checked and, where relevant, overseas checks were undertaken.

Quality of leadership in and management of schools [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has ensured that all the action points relating to failings identified by the previous inspection have been implemented successfully. In meeting these action points as well as fulfilling the more general safeguarding

requirements of ISSR 7 (a) and (b), the proprietor has ensured that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and that the leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that other standards are consistently met. The proprietor has also ensured that the leadership and management actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework and has fulfilled all of the action points required of it by the previous inspection. There are no further action points.