



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Abbey College, Malvern

June 2022

School's details

College	Abbey College		
DfE number	885/6026		
Address	Abbey College 253 Wells Road Malvern Wells Worcestershire WR14 4JF		
Telephone number	01684 892300		
Email address	enquiries@abbeycollege.co.uk		
Principal	Mr Daniel Booker		
Proprietor	Mr Hekmat Kaveh		
Age range	14 to 19		
Number of pupils on roll	27		
	Day pupils	1	Boarders 26
	Seniors	11	Sixth Form 16
Date of visit	2 June 2022		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Abbey College is an independent co-educational boarding school. The school was established on its present site in 1979 and caters for international pupils, offering GCSE, A-level and pre-university courses. The school is established as a limited company, owned and managed by the proprietor. Almost all pupils are overseas boarders who speak English as an additional language (EAL). All are supported in their English language needs by specialist teachers. There are no pupils with an education, health and care (EHC) plan or who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in December 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 regulatory compliance inspection of 30 November to 2 December 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour); NMS 12	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]

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 standards.
- 2.4 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively. Pupils reported that they feel safe in school and in their boarding houses and have many adults to whom they can report any concerns. Action is taken swiftly if any concerns are expressed. There is a suitably qualified and experienced designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and two deputies all of whom have up-to-date training at the required level. The DSL trains staff regularly and provides regular updates. Staff reported that they are confident in the effectiveness of their induction and their regular training. They show appropriate awareness of the staff code of conduct, whistleblowing and safeguarding procedures and described a suitably robust culture of safeguarding in the school. They understand to whom they should report any allegations concerning staff. The school has robust systems in place to monitor and filter use of the internet and educates pupils effectively in online safety.
- 2.5 The DSL maintains close links with the local authority and seeks advice appropriately. The school makes use of local health and counselling services for pupils in need or at risk and communicates closely with parents, almost all of whom live abroad, to keep them informed.
- 2.6 Within boarding houses, additional residential staff have now been appointed so that pupils are effectively supervised at all times of day and at night. Newly initiated and thorough signing-in and out procedures ensure that the whereabouts of boarders are known.
- 2.7 The proprietor attends regular meetings with the principal and bursar in order to carry out effective oversight of safeguarding, including through requiring appropriate recruitment checks on adults who come into contact with pupils. The DSL is also supported by members of the local advisory board who have safeguarding expertise.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9; NMS 12]

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 Suitable measures to promote good behaviour are implemented effectively, including in boarding. Pupils confirmed that all members of the community are generally courteous to each other and that poor behaviour is rare. Should it happen they feel that actions taken by staff are fair and appropriate and inspection evidence confirms this. Where sanctions have been applied the school now keeps a centralised log to record them so that patterns can be identified.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 15]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 Suitable measures are now in place to ensure effective supervision of pupils, including boarders. Staffing levels in boarding houses have been increased, rotas for supervisory duties are produced weekly and displayed appropriately in each boarding house and large posters makes it clear who is on

duty at any time. Suitable care is taken to make sure permissions are sought by pupils wishing to go off site so that staff can be informed of return times and expectations. This is supported by the new signing-in and out procedures.

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; NMS 13]

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 Appropriate procedures are implemented which ensure the proprietor and senior leaders manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements, including in boarding, effectively. Required records are kept and monitored effectively in boarding. This demonstrates appropriate knowledge and skills, enabling the leadership and management to fulfil their responsibilities so that the independent school standards are met consistently and the well-being of pupils is actively promoted.

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, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the principal, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor's representative. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.