



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

The Mount School, Huddersfield

November 2022

School's details

School	The Mount School			
DfE number	382/6006			
Address	The Mount School 3 Binham Road Edgerton Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD2 2AP			
Telephone number	01484 426432			
Email address	info@themount.org.uk			
Head Teacher	Mr Euan Burton-Smith			
Proprietor	Mr Chris Sellers			
Age Range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	115			
	EYFS	26	Juniors	89
Date of inspection	15 November 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The Mount School, Huddersfield is an independent co-educational day school situated in the suburbs of Huddersfield. The school is owned and overseen by the sole proprietor. The school has 15 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, one of whom has an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in December 2021.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection 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 on 10 December 2021. The inspection 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 inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietor)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure)	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 The school's safeguarding procedures are well understood by staff and implemented in practice. Both policies and procedures have been improved effectively since the previous inspection. The proprietor exercises suitable oversight of safeguarding in the school, including by ratifying the policy. A suitable annual review of safeguarding has been undertaken by the school and provided to the proprietor. Staff and those in leadership positions are suitably trained, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). The school makes appropriate arrangements for listening to children. Pupils confirmed that if they raise a concern they receive a response. Records of safeguarding confirm that action is then taken where necessary. The DSL manages concerns about children at risk effectively, liaising with external agencies and parents when required. Suitable procedures are in place for the reporting of allegations against members of staff.
- 2.5 The school has ensured that those responsible for the recruitment of staff are suitably trained and aware of statutory guidance. All required checks are now completed prior to their starting work, including those for disqualification from childcare. There is clear understanding that where a member of staff begins work before a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is seen, a barred list check must be carried out together with all other checks and a suitable assessment of risk undertaken. Staff files contain the information required to confirm recruitment procedures.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 The school promotes good behaviour appropriately through the drawing up and effective implementation of a written behaviour policy. Incidents recorded are dealt with in accordance with the policy, including any conflicts or apparent conflicts which occur in the playground.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The school has implemented its action plan effectively, including providing suitable training for those responsible for the recruitment of staff. All required checks are carried out in advance of a person starting work at the school, including those for medical fitness, checks against the barred list and of the list of those prohibited from teaching. The central register of appointments contains the required information, including accurate dates when the checks have been confirmed.

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

- 2.10 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.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 A suitable procedure is in place for the handling of complaints, both informal and formal. The school has not received any formal complaints since the previous inspection but processes are understood effectively. Informal complaints are dealt with in line with the stated procedure.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The school has ensured the effective implementation of the action plan, including the provision of a suitable safeguarding policy. Those in leadership positions have undertaken the training necessary to ensure a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. This has ensured that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, 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 inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor. They talked with a group of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Karen Williams

Reporting inspector

Mr Michael Evans

Assistant reporting inspector