

Material change inspection report

18 October 2024

Bishopsgate School

Bishopsgate Road
Englefield Green
Surrey
TW20 0YJ

The Independent Schools Inspectorate is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect association independent schools in England. Our inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met, collectively referred to in this report as 'the Standards'.

Inspection outcome

The school has requested a material change to increase the school's total pupil capacity from 400 to 450.

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is recommended that the material change be approved.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7 (a) and (b), 11, 12, 14, and 16 (a) and (b)

1. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place and are implemented effectively. Staff, including the school's safeguarding leaders, are suitably trained. Staff receive regular information and safeguarding updates to keep them well informed. The designated safeguarding leader (DSL) and deputy designated safeguarding leaders are knowledgeable about their roles and work well with other agencies to safeguard pupils, including with the local authority designated officer.
2. Leaders ensure that safeguarding information is shared in a timely way with staff who are directly responsible for pupils' welfare. Safeguarding, pastoral and healthcare staff work effectively together to consider how best to meet the needs of individual pupils. Leaders use their shared knowledge to put in place suitable support plans, including referrals to child and adolescent mental health services when appropriate.
3. The proprietor maintains effective oversight of the school's safeguarding procedures and their implementation. Regular meetings take place between the proprietor and the school's safeguarding leaders to review the arrangements that are in place to safeguard pupils. This includes arrangements for safeguarding pupils when they are off site and attending school trips. The proprietor ensures that an annual safeguarding review takes place and that leaders act promptly on any recommendations.
4. The DSL monitors and acts on concerns raised by pupils. When pupils raise a concern, they receive a timely response, and action is taken where needed. Pupils can identify designated staff to whom they can turn if they are worried or concerned. They are also provided with information so that they know how to contact helplines, including Childline and the Children's Commissioner.
5. The proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. There is effective oversight of arrangements through the property committee. The accommodation and classrooms completed by the school in previous years sufficiently cater for the increase in numbers.
6. The proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Records demonstrate that appropriate fire drills take place, confirmed in interviews with pupils and staff. Records show that all refurbished accommodation has been added to the school fire alarm systems, by appropriately qualified personnel and they contain suitable fire-fighting equipment. The school has appropriate measures in place for fire risk assessment for its current buildings and there is appropriate regular maintenance of related equipment.

7. Leaders have put in place an appropriate risk assessment policy. Risk assessments are suitably detailed and regularly reviewed. Leaders ensure that staff who are responsible for writing and reviewing risk assessments take appropriate action to reduce risks to pupils. Leaders also ensure that appropriate measures are in place to reduce potential risks posed to staff and pupils from extremism and radicalisation.
8. The planning and procedures for offsite visits are detailed and clear with appropriate checks and approval in place. Parents receive detailed information about school trips, including behaviour expectations, safeguarding procedures, activities and travel details. Risk assessments are amended if changes occur. Any changes to arrangements are communicated to parents without delay. Staff have received relevant training and guidance and are confident to complete risk assessments, including those for offsite visits and residential trips.
9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

ISSR Paragraphs 18 to 21

10. The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and a register is kept as required.
11. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 23 to 29

12. Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities are provided where required, and appropriate accommodation exists for pupils' medical and therapy needs. These are sufficient to meet the need of current pupils and the proposed increase in numbers. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; and water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play. In previous years the school has carried out building refurbishment to accommodate the proposed increase in numbers. Existing specialist teaching facilities meet the needs of the increased numbers of pupils.
13. The school is likely to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

14. Particulars of the safeguarding arrangements are published on the school's website.
15. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

ISSR paragraph 33

16. The school follows, an appropriate policy on recording and responding to complaints from parents. It meets the relevant regulatory standards. Leaders respond promptly to complaints raised by parents and consistently handle complaints in line with the school's policy.

17. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)

18. The proprietor and senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

19. Following building refurbishments in 2016 and the addition of a new sports hall and facilities 2022 the properties committee reviewed projections in pupil capacity prior to the school's proposal for an increase in pupil capacity. This included appropriate actions to accommodate an increase of total pupil capacity from 400 to 450.

20. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Bishopsgate School
Department for Education number	936/6024
Registered charity number	1060511
Address	Bishopsgate School Bishopsgate Road Englefield Green Surrey TW20 0YJ
Phone number	0178 4432109
Email address	office@bishopsgatesch.uk
Website	http://www.bishopsgateschool.com
Proprietor	Bishopsgate School Limited
Chair	Mr Christiian Marriott
Headteacher	Mr Peter Thacker
Age range	3 to 14
Number of pupils	423
Date of previous inspection	22 to 25 March 2022

Information about the school

21. Bishopsgate School is a co-educational school located in Englefield Green, Surrey. The school consists of pre-prep and lower prep school, including early years provision and a middle and upper prep school. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors.
22. Early years pupils are located in the pre-prep main school buildings.
23. The school has identified six pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupil in the school has an education, health and care plan.
24. English is an additional language for 19 pupils.
25. The school states that its aims are to provide pupils with the highest standards of education through a journey secure in their sense of self and empower them to unleash their full potential.

Purpose of the material change inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002 following an application made by the school to the DfE to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the Independent School Standards and Early Years Foundation Stage requirements if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates 18 October 2024

26. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.
27. Inspection activities included:
 - scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
 - tour of the school site to determine whether it could accommodate an increase in its total pupil capacity from 400 to 450
 - discussions with the deputy chair of governors
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils and staff
 - scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school
 - scrutiny of information published on the school's website.

How are association independent schools in England inspected?

- The Department for Education is the regulator for independent schools in England.
- ISI is approved by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect independent schools in England, which are members of associations in membership of the Independent Schools Council.
- ISI inspections report to the Department for Education on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards, the EYFS statutory framework requirements, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other relevant standards are met.
- For more information, please visit **www.isi.net**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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