

Material change inspection report

22 November 2024

King Edward VI School

Wilton Road

Southampton

SO15 5UQ

Inspection outcome

The school has requested a material change request to increase its overall capacity from 975 to 1010 pupils.

The school is likely to meet 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 7a and 7b (safeguarding) , paragraph 11 (health and safety), paragraph 12 (fire safety), paragraph 14 (supervision), paragraph 16a and 16b (risk assessment)

1. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy which is effectively implemented. Safeguarding leaders ensure that pupils have many ways in which they can report concerns. These are used by pupils. Staff and safeguarding leaders take appropriate action and meet regularly to monitor pupils of concern. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) keeps suitable records, liaises effectively with external agencies and ensures appropriate support for pupils who require it. Pupils are well educated about how to stay safe online and the school implements effective systems to filter and monitor technology. The school assesses the risks around vulnerable pupils with suitable care.
2. Safeguarding leaders are suitably trained. They manage staff training needs effectively and provide appropriate induction training as well as regular updates in response to new information. Staff understand the school's code of conduct. They report any concerns they have about colleagues, including those which do not meet the harm threshold. A suitable log of these low-level concerns is retained.
3. Governors are appropriately trained and provide effective oversight of safeguarding. The safeguarding governor is in regular contact with the DSL and the safeguarding team and he provides both support and suitable challenge to safeguarding practices. Policies and procedures are reviewed annually and governors ask questions to clarify and inform their understanding.
4. Suitable health and safety documentation outlines clear lines of responsibility across all aspects of school life. These are effectively monitored and regular checks on infrastructure, equipment and the safety of personnel are carefully documented. New staff receive induction on health and safety matters and staff are vigilant in reporting any concerns that arise. Arrangements for the arrival and departure of pupils on school buses are robust and traffic is well managed around the site to ensure pupils' safety.
5. Fire policies and procedures are effective. Drills are held regularly and pupils understand their evacuation routes and assembly locations. Suitable fire precautions are in place and are regularly checked. A comprehensive fire risk assessment is carried out by a suitable external company and any recommendations are quickly followed up to ensure pupils are well protected from any risks.
6. Suitable supervision rotas are in place and pupils are well supervised during breaks and lunchtimes by vigilant staff. Particular attention is paid to supervising the large number of pupils who arrive and leave by school buses. Staff offices are located in areas used by pupils for recreation and in the wellbeing centre so that pupils have ready access to key staff if required.

7. The school has a thorough approach to managing any risks to pupils. These include physical risks, those relating to pupil welfare and mental health, and risks associated with day trips and residential visits. Staff receive training to complete risk assessments and these are effectively monitored by a senior leader. Any temporary risks, such as those to do with building maintenance are carefully assessed and mitigations put in place.
8. 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 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)

9. The school implements its recruitment policy effectively so that all required checks on staff, supply staff and governors are completed prior to their appointment. Checks are accurately recorded on the single central record of appointments, which is regularly monitored by senior leaders and the safeguarding governor.
10. 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 (toilets and changing accommodation; medical facilities; maintenance; acoustics; lighting; water supply; and outdoor space)

11. The school provides modern and well-designed accommodation for the pupils which includes a sixth form centre. All buildings are well maintained. Recently refurbished toilet and washing facilities for male and female pupils are suitable. For instance, there are well-designed locker areas for pupils' belongings, changing rooms are spacious and they contain showering facilities. There is a well appointed medical centre, which is staffed throughout the school day. Lighting and acoustic conditions are appropriate. Pupils have access to drinking water facilities across the site, which are clearly labelled. The large grounds provide space for physical education and for recreation adjacent to the school and on playing fields a short distance away.
12. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

13. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are on the school website.
14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

15. Senior leaders and governors provide secure leadership and effective oversight of policies and procedures across all areas of school life. They monitor safeguarding and welfare arrangements appropriately. They have planned effectively for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. Current facilities in the senior school and the sixth form are sufficient to cater for the proposed increase in

the school's capacity. Leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

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

School details

School	King Edward VI School
Department for Education number	852 6006
Registered charity number	3062972
Address	King Edward VI School Wilton Road Southampton SO15 5JQ
Phone number	02380 705937
Email address	enquiries@kes.hants.sch.uk
Website	www.kes.hants.sch.uk
Proprietor	King Edward VI School Trust
Chair	Mr Geraint Davies
Headteacher	Mr Neal Parker
Age range	10 to 19
Number of pupils	988
Date of previous inspection	19 to 21 January 2022

Information about the school

18. King Edward VI School is an independent co-educational day school located close to the centre of Southampton. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors. The school consists of a senior school and a sixth form. Since the previous inspection a new chair of governors has been appointed in September 2024.
19. The school has identified 172 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Three pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
20. English is an additional language for 45 pupils.
21. The school states that its aims are to nurture and support pupils so that they flourish and exceed their expectations in their learning, interests, relationships and emotional development. The goal is that pupils become intellectually curious, resilient, confident and ready for their next steps.

Purpose of the material change inspection

The inspector 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 if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

22 November 2024

22. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.
23. 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 assess its suitability
 - discussion with the chair of governors
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils and staff

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Independent Schools Inspectorate

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