



Material Change Inspection Report

Lochinver House School

November 2023

School's details

School name	Lochinver House School			
DfE number	919/6201			
Registered charity number	1091045			
Address	Lochinver House School Heath Road Little Heath Potters Bar Hertfordshire EN6 1LW			
Telephone number	01707 653064			
Email address	schooloffice@lochinverhouse.com			
Head	Mr Jonathan Wadge			
Chair of governors	Mr Nick Gilbert			
Proprietor	The Lochinver Board of Governors			
Age Range	4 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	330			
	Pre-prep	123	Prep	207
Date of inspection	2 November 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Lochinver House is an independent day school registered for male pupils. The school is based on a single site in a residential area of Potters Bar. It is a charitable trust administered by a single governing body. The school comprises two sections: the pre-prep for pupils aged four to seven years, which includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting, and the prep for those aged seven to thirteen years. The school has 63 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 53 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in February 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to change the age range from 4 to 13 to 3 to 13 years and increase its total capacity from 355 to 370 pupils. 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 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 2A (relationships and sex education)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18-21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23-29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school has a suitable curriculum policy, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which is effectively implemented. The curriculum covers all the required areas of learning and takes into account pupils' individual needs. There are suitable procedures for the identification of additional support if any pupil is identified as having SEND or other individual need. The school ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to make progress and provides up-to-date careers advice for those of secondary school age. Suitable plans are in place to ensure that the curriculum for pupils aged three to four will be similarly effective. The school has exemption from following the EYFS educational requirements and intends to seek this for children in the proposed Nursery. Schemes of work in Reception are based around the EYFS framework.

Quality of education provided – relationships and sex education (RSE) [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2A]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school ensures that pupils are provided with RSE that is in line with statutory guidance. The school publishes a written statement of its policy and consults parents before making any changes. Pupils confirm that they are able to discuss matters of concern in an open and frank manner. In the EYFS, relationships education is taught through the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) programme. The school has appropriate plans for PSED in Nursery from September 2024.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.5 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.6 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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 Scrutiny of records, observation and discussions with staff and pupils indicate that appropriate safeguards are effectively implemented, including in the EYFS. Those responsible for safeguarding hold positions within the school's senior leadership team and/or are key heads of departments. They have been appropriately trained and are suitably knowledgeable. There is regular sharing of information between the designated safeguarding lead, her deputies, and the pastoral and medical staff.
- 2.9 The school has established processes which enable pupils to report concerns to trusted adults. The pupils confirmed in discussion that senior staff act promptly to address any such concerns. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts promptly to respond to any concerns it receives from or about pupils and it liaises appropriately with local agencies. Pupils receive extensive advice about online safety and are confident that they know how to stay safe. The designated safeguarding lead ensures that there are effective systems in place to filter and monitor the internet.

- 2.10 Staff are suitably trained and discussions with them confirmed that this training has been effectively understood. In discussion, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of how to report concerns that they may have about other adults in the school and confirmed that they would do so if this were necessary. There is an appropriate approach to reporting low-level concerns about adults working with children and a suitable record is kept. The school has appropriate arrangements for handling allegations, including reporting to local agencies.
- 2.11 The governor responsible for safeguarding meets termly with the designated safeguarding lead and conducts an annual review of policy and procedures. Safeguarding is on the agenda for all full governing body meetings. There are effective procedures to ensure that appropriate and timely checks are made to confirm the suitability of staff. Senior staff check the single central register each half-term and the safeguarding governor checks it termly. These processes ensure that the proprietor exercises suitable oversight of the school's safeguarding arrangements.
- 2.12 The arrangements are likely to meet the needs of the extended age range and the proposed increase in pupil numbers. Staff are aware of the particular safeguarding needs of younger children.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The proprietor ensures that the school complies with the relevant health and safety laws by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Systematic records show that appropriate checks are conducted on a regular basis. Staff are able to report any concerns so that any trends can be identified and risks mitigated. The current arrangements indicate that the school is likely to continue to meet the standard when the age range is extended and the pupil roll is increased.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 The school has a suitable fire safety policy. A fire risk assessment of the premises has been undertaken by a suitably qualified external consultant and any recommendations implemented. Procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are well understood by staff and pupils. Termly fire drills are carried out and recorded. The arrangements are likely to meet the needs of the extended age range and proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 Pupils are appropriately supervised through the effective deployment of staff. Supervision ratios in the EYFS are adhered to. Current arrangements and the plans in place for the admission of pupils aged three to four indicate that the school is likely to meet the standard when the age range is extended and there is an increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 The school's risk assessment policy clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of staff in identifying and mitigating risk. There is risk assessment training for all staff. Appropriate and suitably thorough

risk assessments are drawn up for all areas of the site, in-school activities, trips and visits. These include specific risk assessment requirements for the EYFS. The school has assessed the risk associated with admitting pupils from the age of three. The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of pupils aged three to four and the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.21 The school meets the standards.
- 2.22 There is a suitable policy in place which covers the required recruitment checks and procedures, including for supply staff. This is implemented effectively. All staff, governors and persons engaged in regulated activity are checked and recorded appropriately on the single central register of appointments. Those responsible for carrying out the required recruitment checks and the maintenance of staff records ensure that the necessary checks and evidence are in place prior to staff commencing work in the school. These arrangements suggest that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards when pupils aged three to four are admitted and there is an increase in pupil numbers.

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23-29]

- 2.23 The school meets the standard.
- 2.24 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Acoustics, lighting and water provision are appropriate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.25 The school has detailed plans to enhance the premises and accommodation in the pre-prep building to meet the needs of pupils aged three to four. The necessary works are scheduled for the summer holiday of 2024. These works, together with the current provision, are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of pupils aged three to four and the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.26 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]

- 2.27 The school meets the standard.
- 2.28 School leaders and governors, including those with specific responsibilities for safeguarding and the EYFS, demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted. Measures planned for the proposed admission of pupils aged three to four and the proposed increase in pupil numbers are comprehensive. They are likely to promote the pupils' continued wellbeing.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the material change to lower the age range to 3 to 13 years and increase total capacity to 370 pupils be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.