

Material change inspection report

12 December 2024

Lord Wandsworth College

Long Sutton

Hook

Hampshire

RG29 1TB

Inspection outcome

The school has requested a material change inspection visit to increase the overall number of pupils from 710 to 750. This includes an increase in boarding provision.

The school is likely to continue to meet the relevant independent school Standards and National Minimum Standards for boarding 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 and 8 (safeguarding and safeguarding of boarders) and NMS 5, 6 and 8; ISSR Paragraphs 11 and NMS 9 (health and safety); ISSR Paragraph 12 and NMS 10 (fire safety); ISSR Paragraph 16 and NMS 9 (risk assessment); ISSR Paragraph 14 and NMS 20 (supervision)

1. Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively to ensure the welfare of all pupils including boarders. Pupils have a range of staff who they are able to approach should they have a worry or concern. Pupils are confident that they are listened to by staff and their concerns will be acted on. Leaders demonstrate secure knowledge and understanding of statutory safeguarding requirements and local protocols. They collaborate closely with the local authority as required.
2. School leaders, including governing board members, receive regular and relevant safeguarding training. Those with designated safeguarding leader responsibilities are suitably qualified for their roles. Staff are knowledgeable in child protection procedures and contextual risks, including those relating to online safety, the risks posed by radicalisation and extremism and ensuring the safety of day pupils and boarders. Staff know how to recognise, report, and record a safeguarding concern. School staff are well trained and regularly briefed on safeguarding matters. The governing board ensures that leaders conduct regular reviews of the safeguarding arrangements each half term, including the testing of internet filtering.
3. Leaders have put in place appropriate systems to enable the comprehensive and efficient reporting and recording of safeguarding concerns. Senior staff make effective use of the school's data systems to identify trends and patterns and follow these up appropriately. Pupils learn how to keep themselves and others safe through form tutor meetings, assemblies, and as part of the personal, social and health education programme. Pupils and boarders feel well supported and safe in school.
4. Pupils who board have suitable lockable spaces to protect their personal possessions. Every house operates a house bank, to allow pupils to safely deposit money and valuables. The majority of boarders' main meals are taken in the college or junior dining halls and each house is supplied with provisions in order that boarders are able to prepare food and snacks in each boarding house. The boarding houses currently have suitable provision and capacity to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils.
5. Leaders ensure that effective health and safety policies are implemented across the school and in relation to boarding. Governors check that the relevant health and safety laws are complied with. Records demonstrate that all required testing is systematically and rigorously undertaken. Health and safety training for staff is comprehensive throughout the school, including for those with

boarding responsibilities. Any health and safety concerns are identified through effective monitoring and reporting and are quickly addressed in order to mitigate risk.

6. Accurate records and logs are kept of all required routine testing, including monthly, and annual checks. The school has in place emergency plans in case of a major incident which also includes an overnight emergency procedure for boarding pupils. There is a security patrol of the campus each evening, to maintain overall site security. The current arrangements are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils. The school meets the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The school operates a robust fire prevention strategy which is based on ensuring that each separate building is suitably evacuated and checked in the event of a fire. A suitably qualified external consultant has conducted an effective fire risk assessment of all buildings, and this gives reassurance to the governors that the required fire regulations are appropriately met. Any recommended actions from annual audits are implemented effectively. Staff and pupils understand the fire and lockdown procedures which are reinforced through suitable training. Regular fire drills are undertaken, including in boarding time. The arrangements for fire safety are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils.
7. Suitably qualified and trained school staff supervise day and boarding pupils, at all points during the day and for boarding pupils each evening, overnight and over the weekend period. The recent addition of assistant non-resident house staff to each boarding house has further increased the number of staff available for supervision duties. Staffing numbers, although currently able to meet the projected increase in pupil numbers, will be subject to annual review as pupil numbers increase. The current arrangements are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils.
8. An efficient and effective approach is taken to managing risk. An appropriate risk assessment policy is in place and staff have received training in assessing risk for their respective areas and for organising school outings. Risk assessments are detailed and include consideration of the needs of vulnerable pupils. Risk assessments are subject to ongoing review by leaders and managers to ensure they are suitably focused on the needs of individual pupils and pupil groups, including boarding pupils. A suitable risk assessment has been undertaken with regard to the proposed increase in pupil numbers and any recommendations have been implemented. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of additional pupils.
9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 4. Suitability of staff and governors

ISSR Paragraphs 18-21 and NMS 19 (staff recruitment)

10. All the required checks on staff and members of the governing board are undertaken and completed before individuals take up their positions at the school. The school maintains a comprehensive and accurate single central register (SCR) of appointments which includes the dates on which the checks have been completed.
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 paragraph 23 (toilet and washing facilities); paragraph 24 (medical facilities); paragraph 25 (maintenance); paragraph 26 (acoustics); paragraph 27 (lighting); paragraph 28 (water); paragraph 29 (outdoor space) and NMS 4

12. Suitable toilet, washing and changing facilities are available to pupils. The school has in place a rolling programme of refurbishments which has seen the upgrading of dormitory and washrooms facilities across the boarding houses. This currently meets the needs of the envisaged increase in pupil numbers. This work is part of an on-going whole school modernisation programme. There is appropriate provision for any disabled pupils and separate facilities are available for staff and visitors to the school. Boarding accommodation throughout the school is of a good standard and meets the requirements of the national minimum standards for boarding schools.
13. Teaching and recreation areas are well maintained and of a high standard. The school uses an online system for reporting maintenance requirements which helps leaders prioritise potential health and safety concerns. Governors provide suitable oversight of the management of all maintenance, through the estates department. Members of the school's health and safety committee provide additional input. Both staff and pupils know how to report any maintenance issues, and any reported defects are quickly addressed.
14. A dedicated and well-staffed medical centre is available for both day and boarding pupils. The facility includes a reception area, nurses offices and three consultation rooms. There is a rest area, with bed access available for pupil use, with suitable wash basin facilities and an adjoining toilet and disabled shower area. Additionally, each boarding house has a dedicated ensuite rest area with appropriate facilities, if a pupil needs to be isolated within the boarding house but does not require immediate medical assistance.
15. Suitable acoustic and lighting arrangements and water supplies are in place, including in both the new and refurbished buildings. Appropriate sound installation is provided where required, including in the new science labs and dining hall area, both of which are fitted with suitable acoustic panelling. Suitable external lighting is in place and is checked regularly. Water supplies are available across all areas of the school with hot and cold water as required, including ready access to drinking fountains for pupils.
16. Pupils of all ages have access to an extensive variety of outdoor facilities for physical education, recreation, and relaxation. A range of facilities including two sports halls, hard surface play areas, netball and tennis courts and a swimming pool are available, and this provision will cater adequately for the envisaged increase in pupil numbers.
17. 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) (publication of safeguarding policy)

18. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published appropriately on the school's website and are accessible to parents.
19. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

20. The governing board and senior leaders manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements effectively and monitor compliance with the standards and other statutory advice, including those of the national minimum standards for boarding. Governors regularly visit the school and consult with both staff and pupils and undertake routine visits to boarding houses. They ensure that policies and procedures are appropriate and relevant to the school's needs and are effectively implemented by staff.
21. Leaders and managers have carefully and strategically planned for the increase in pupil numbers. They have effectively overseen the work to extend the boarding house provision. A comprehensive risk management plan is in place to enable leaders to mitigate and manage potential risks. A detailed boarding house and cross campus development programme is in place. Regular meetings of senior leaders and the school governors have enabled a staged management of the process of admitting additional pupils to take place, whether they be day or boarding pupils.
22. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Lord Wandsworth College
Department for Education number	850/6064
Registered charity number	1143359
Address	Lord Wandsworth College Long Sutton Hook Hampshire RG29 1TB
Phone number	01256 860348
Email address	headsec@lordwandsworth.org
Website	www.lordwandsworth.org
Proprietor	Lord Wandsworth College Trust
Chair	Mr Robert Hannington
Headteacher	Mr Adam Williams
Age range	11 - 19
Number of pupils	706
Number of boarding pupils	406
Date of previous inspection	12 to 14 March 2024

Information about the school

24. Lord Wandsworth College is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged between 11 and 18 years set in 1200 acres of parkland. It is a registered charity, overseen by a board of governors who are all trustees of the Lord Wandsworth Foundation. The school was founded in 1912, originally as an agricultural college for children who had lost parents through death, divorce, or separation.
25. There are eight boarding houses on site. One of these is a mixed boarding house for younger pupils. Of the others, four of them are for male pupils and three of them are for female pupils. The school has identified 300 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). A small proportion of pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
26. The school has identified 12 pupils for whom English is an additional language.
27. The school states its aims are to nurture inwardly self-confident, outwardly modest, curious, and passionate young individuals who are ambitious to go and make a positive difference in the world.

Purpose of the material change

The inspector carried out this inspection 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 National Minimum Standards for boarding schools if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

12 December 2024

28. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.
29. 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 view boarding house refurbishments and modifications to the school's infrastructure to accommodate a further 40 pupils
 - discussions with members of the governing board
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers, and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils and staff
 - visits to male and female boarding houses
 - 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

CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

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