



Material Change Inspection Report

Moyles Court School

September 2023

School's details

School	Moyles Court School			
DfE number	850/6048			
Address	Moyles Court Ringwood Hampshire BN24 3NF			
Telephone number	01425 472856			
Email address	info@moylescourt.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mr Richard Milner-Smith			
Chair of proprietors	Mr Mark Broadway			
Proprietor	Broadway Education Group			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	176			
	Day pupils	155	Boarders	21
	EYFS	32	Juniors	44
	Seniors	100		
Date of inspection	18 September 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Moyles Court School is a co-educational day and boarding school located in a rural location close to Ringwood in Hampshire. The school is organised into an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting for children aged two to four; the junior school for pupils aged five to eleven; and the senior school for pupils aged eleven to sixteen. The school is overseen by the Broadway Education Group. There are seventeen pupils who receive support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), three of whom have an education, health and care plan. Fourteen pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2023.

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 increase its total capacity from 225 to 295 pupils, the increase occurring across all age ranges but without an increase in boarding numbers. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 9	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 10	Met
Part 3, paragraphs 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 20	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 9	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors): NMS 19	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 30 (premises and accommodation); NMS 4	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met
NMS 5 (boarders' possessions)	Met
NMS 6 (provision and preparation of food and drink)	Met
NMS 7 (boarders' health and wellbeing)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8]

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 standards.
- 2.4 The school implements all aspects of its safeguarding policy effectively and provides appropriate support for the needs of pupils, including boarders and children in the EYFS. The current arrangements are likely to be suitable to meet the needs of the proposed increase in numbers.
- 2.5 Pupils say that they have many adults to whom they can report any concerns and they are confident that appropriate action would then be taken. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts swiftly to respond to any concerns it receives from or about pupils and that it refers any serious concerns appropriately to local agencies. Pupils confirm that they are well educated about online risks and the school filters and monitors its internet access appropriately. Records are kept carefully. There have been no recent incidents of child-on-child abuse but the school confirmed its understanding of the need to refer any harmful sexual or racist behaviour appropriately to the relevant local authority.
- 2.6 Staff confirm that they are regularly trained in safeguarding and receive updates from the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as and when necessary. This is confirmed by records of training. Staff understand how to report any allegations about adults who work with children and confirmed that they would do so without hesitation. They are trained in how to report any low-level concerns, do so appropriately, and a suitable log of these is kept. The head seeks advice from the local authority when necessary and refers any allegations against adults in the school promptly.
- 2.7 The DSL and her deputy have up-to-date advanced training for their roles. All governors are appropriately trained and those with responsibilities for safeguarding liaise closely with the DSL. They receive regular half termly reviews from the DSL and, as proprietors, carry out a suitable annual review of the safeguarding policy and its implementation.

Boarders' possessions; provision and preparation of food and drink; boarders' health and wellbeing (NMS 5, 6 and 7)

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 Boarders have suitable lockable spaces in which to store their possessions. There are appropriate arrangements for boarders' laundry. The central dining and kitchen facilities are suitable and well maintained so that boarders' needs are effectively met. Menus indicate that food provided is nutritious and well balanced and any specific dietary needs are provided for. Boarding pupils have access to drinking water and suitable snacks in their boarding accommodation.
- 2.10 Arrangements to ensure boarders' health and wellbeing are effective. Qualified medical staff is on site during the day and boarders are well cared for by boarding staff overnight with access to external health services should that be necessary. There is a suitable sick bay in both areas of boarding accommodation. Boarders have access to local medical, dental and optometric services. All

medication is safely stored. Suitable records are kept electronically. Boarders report that they feel safe and well cared for.

- 2.11 These arrangements are likely to continue to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 9]

- 2.12 The school meets the standards.
- 2.13 There is a suitable health and safety policy which is effectively implemented. Records show that testing of all utilities is regularly and systematically carried out. Traffic around the site is well managed to ensure pupils' safety. Any health and safety concerns, including those in boarding accommodation, and any resulting from daily checks in the EYFS, are responded to promptly and effectively. Staff confirm a strong culture of health and safety awareness in the school. Proprietors regularly and appropriately review all health and safety arrangements. These are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 10]

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 The school has an appropriate fire prevention policy which is implemented effectively. Regular fire risk assessments are carried out and any recommended actions are acted upon. Fire procedures are understood by staff and pupils and regular fire drills are undertaken and recorded, including in boarding time. Fire signage is effective and regular checks are carried out on all fire infrastructure. Staff and pupils receive suitable training in fire evacuation procedures. Fire safety arrangements are likely to continue to be appropriate with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 20]

- 2.16 The school meets the standards.
- 2.17 Pupils of all ages in the school are properly supervised by suitably qualified and trained staff. This is the case during breaks and lunchtimes, at the beginning and end of the school day and in the EYFS, where required ratios are consistently maintained. Arrangements for the supervision of boarders, including at night, are implemented effectively. The current arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 9]

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy and implements it effectively. It ensures that there is a systematic approach to identifying and mitigating risk throughout the school. Risk assessments operate effectively for the school site, including boarding areas, the EYFS, specialist departments and for school trips and visits. There is a centralised and consistent system for carrying out risk assessment and staff feel appropriately trained in assessing and minimising risk. There are also suitable risk assessments for any pupil who is of concern and these are managed effectively by those with safeguarding responsibilities.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19;]

- 2.20 The school meets the standards.
- 2.21 The school implements a suitable recruitment policy effectively. This has due regard to the procedures required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023*. It makes appropriate and timely checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and a register is kept as required. The information on the register reflects documentation seen in staff files.
- 2.22 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 225 to 295.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation; medical facilities; maintenance; acoustics; lighting; water supply and outdoor space; boarding accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23 – 30; NMS 4]

- 2.23 The school meets the standards.
- 2.24 A tour of the school premises demonstrated that the current site provides appropriate provision for an increase in total capacity from 225 to 295 pupils without additional building work being necessary. Existing classrooms in many of the school buildings have capacity for additional pupils, including those in the EYFS. There are further classrooms which can be brought into use should the need arise. The school has a flexible approach to its classroom use according to numbers in specific year groups which can change from one year to the next. Boarding accommodation is spacious and well-appointed and many of the rooms have capacity for more boarders should the need arise. The school is on a large site with suitable facilities for outdoor physical education and for recreation. Toilets and changing accommodation are suitable and there are more toilet and washing facilities which can be brought into use if necessary. The school has suitable medical facilities for the use of day pupils and boarders and there are appropriately separated rooms in the boarding accommodation should pupils need to be isolated. Classrooms and boarding accommodation are well maintained. Acoustics, lighting and water supply are appropriate.

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

- 2.25 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]

- 2.26 The school meets the standards.
- 2.27 The proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are met consistently and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. Current arrangements and physical capacity in the school are sufficient to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers from 225 to 295.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal to increase its capacity from 225 to 295 be approved. The school's current accommodation, including in boarding and the EYFS, provide sufficient capacity for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. The school has appropriate plans in place for the safeguarding needs of pupils.

4. Summary of evidence

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