ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Material change inspection report

15 December 2025

Immanuel Christian School

Rodford Tabernacle

Westerleigh Road

Westerleigh

Avon

BS37 8QG

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 submitted a material change request to increase its capacity from 60 pupils to 110 and to add an additional site to the premises of the school.

The school is not likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is not recommended that the material change should be approved.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

1. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibilities respond promptly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns that arise. They consult with external safeguarding partners such as children's services and refer safeguarding concerns promptly to them when appropriate. Suitable arrangements for the handling of concerns about the conduct of adults working in the school are in place. These are well understood by staff and leaders and are followed when required. Leaders keep suitable, secure records of safeguarding concerns which include the reasons for leaders' decisions and actions.
2. Safeguarding training for staff, including that for the safeguarding team, is thorough and in line with local requirements. This is supplemented by frequent updates. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and know how to escalate concerns promptly when required. A suitable induction process is in place to ensure that new staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities at the start of their employment with the school.
3. Staff are vigilant and pupils are well informed about whom they can go to should they wish to share their concerns and know that these will be dealt with promptly and appropriately.
4. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) does not have the independence required by statutory guidance for the role to deal with allegations that may arise concerning the proprietor or their family. The DSL is a member of the board of governors and is married to the chair of governors.
5. The school's safeguarding policy does not have due regard to statutory guidance. The policy is out of date, does not fully reflect statutory requirements and includes reference to outdated terminology such as 'the safeguarding children board'.
6. Leaders have not suitably reviewed or assessed risks to pupils of radicalisation or extremism. The school's monitoring and filtering of pupils' use of the internet is ineffective. The safeguarding team does not have a clear oversight of filtering and monitoring and does not understand the statutory requirements around filtering and monitoring. Filtering arrangements are not sufficiently tested.
7. Leaders have drawn up and implemented a suitable health and safety policy. This is well understood by staff so that they can work together to contribute to a culture of safety and security. There are effective systems in place so that staff can raise any health and safety concerns. These are then appropriately prioritised and actioned by the site maintenance team.
8. Leaders are thorough in their implementation of measures to mitigate against the risk of fire. They consistently meet required timescales for any action points set out by their fire risk assessment. Fire marshals receive suitable training so that they understand their role in the case of emergency. Leaders ensure that fire equipment is tested and maintained frequently.

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9. Suitable supervision rotas are effectively implemented by leaders. Appropriate guidance is also provided to staff in order to help ensure that there is appropriate supervision of pupils. Planning for the proposed material change incorporates careful consideration of how effective supervision will be maintained.
10. Leaders are systematic in their approach to risk assessment. Risks are comprehensively identified and effective steps are taken to remove, reduce and manage risks effectively.
11. The school does not meet the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraphs 18, 19, 20, 21

12. Leaders ensure that all appropriate safer recruitment checks on adults are made in a timely manner and are accurately recorded in a suitable single central record of appointments (SCR). Staff recruitment files are well organised and accurate.
13. 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 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,29, 31

14. In both the existing premises and the proposed additional site, there are adequate toilets and washing facilities. There is suitable accommodation to accommodate pupils who are unwell or injured. The premises are suitably maintained. There are drinking water taps around the site which are clearly marked. Internal and external lighting and acoustics within buildings are suitable. There is appropriate outdoor space to allow pupils to play and for physical education.
15. 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)

16. Leaders publish details of the arrangements for safeguarding pupils on the school's website.
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 paragraph 34

18. Leaders and governors exercise care in managing and overseeing health and safety, the management of risk, fire and the supervision of pupils.
19. Leaders and governors do not ensure that the Standards are met consistently. The proprietor does not ensure that leaders have the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfil their safeguarding roles effectively, in order to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils at the school.
20. The school does not meet the Standards.

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Schedule of unmet Standards

Paragraph number	Standard
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7	The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that
7(a)	arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
7(b)	such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
EYFS 3.9	If providers have concerns about children's safety or welfare, they must immediately notify their local authority children's social care team, in line with local reporting procedures, and, in emergencies, the police. Providers must also take into account the government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales'. All schools are required to have regard to the government's statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', and other childcare providers may also find it helpful to read this guidance.
ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(1)	The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school –
34(1)(a)	demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently
34(1)(b)	fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
34(1)(c)	actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

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School details

School	Immanuel Christian School
Department for Education number	803/6010
Registered charity number	1150240
Address	Immanuel Christian School Rodford Tabernacle Westerleigh Road Westerleigh Avon BS37 8QG
Phone number	01454 311710
Email address	joannagulliford@immanuelschool.org.uk
Website	www.immanuelschool.org.uk
Proprietor	Immanuel Christian School Limited
Chair	Mr Jonathan Gulliford
Headteacher	Mrs Joanna Gulliford
Age range	4 to 16
Number of pupils	60
Number of children in the early years setting	7
Date of previous inspection	24 to 26 January 2023

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Information about the school

21. Immanuel Christian School is an independent co-educational day school near the village of Westerleigh in South Gloucestershire. The school is a registered charity overseen by Immanuel Christian School Limited. The directors of the company are also the governors of the school. The school comprises two sections: juniors, which includes the early years foundation stage (EYFS) setting, for pupils from Reception to Year 6; and seniors, for pupils in Years 7 to 11.
22. There are seven pupils in one Reception class. The classroom for Reception is situated in a dedicated area adjacent to the junior section of the school.
23. The school has identified nine pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A small number of pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
24. The school has identified two pupils for whom English is an additional language.
25. The school states that its aims are to provide an environment where God is central and the teaching is based upon a biblical understanding of the world; to help pupils develop their relationship with God, and to equip them for life. The school seeks do this through a stable, caring environment which fosters high expectations of personal conduct and helps pupils to develop both understanding and personal qualities of integrity, patience, kindness, obedience, honesty and self-control.

Purpose of the material change inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the Department for Education 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 the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements if the material change is implemented.

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Inspection details

Inspection dates	15 December 2025

26. Two reporting inspectors 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 and the proposed additional site
- discussions with the chair of governors
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils.

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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