



## **Material Change Inspection Report**

**Pivot Academy Kirklees**

**September 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Pivot Academy Kirklees
<b>DfE number</b>	382/6008
<b>Address</b>	Pivot Academy Kirklees Technology House Alexandra Court Dyson Wood Way Bradley Business Park Cleckheaton Yorkshire HD2 1GN
<b>Telephone number</b>	01274 456350
<b>Email address</b>	sam.porter@pivot-group.co.uk
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Sam Porter
<b>Chair of proprietors</b>	Mr Michael Smith
<b>Proprietor</b>	Pivot Educational Consultancy Limited
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 16
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	71
<b>Date of inspection</b>	19 September 2023

# 1. Introduction

## Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Founded in 2017, Pivot Academy Kirklees is an independent, co-educational day school for pupils who have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, the large majority of whom have associated special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Some pupils have been permanently excluded or at risk of exclusion from other schools. Many pupils who join the school have previously had poor attendance and have experienced significant disruption to their education. All pupil places are commissioned by the local authority. Forty-one pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Eight pupils speak English as an additional language. The chief executive officer of Pivot Educational Consultancy Limited is also the chair of proprietors who, together with the directors of the company, oversees the management of the school. The school is currently located on three sites which are close to each other. The school was previously inspected by Ofsted in May 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 relocate to new school premises at Technology House, Alexandra Court, Dyson Wood Way, HD2 1GN. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessments)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

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

#### **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 standard.
- 2.4 The safeguarding policy is implemented effectively. The policy includes details of 'Prevent' duty guidance and is supported by suitable policies covering the staff code of conduct, safe recruitment, whistleblowing and e-safety which are understood and implemented by staff. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) oversees the deputy DSLs and ensures that safeguarding matters are reported, collated and monitored effectively and that appropriate actions are taken. The DSL has an effective relationship with local agencies and makes appropriate referrals. The safeguarding arrangements are reviewed annually by the directors and the proprietor, who have appropriate knowledge, liaise closely with the DSL and maintain effective oversight. The current effective safeguarding practice is likely to transfer readily to the new school premises.
- 2.5 Pupils can express concerns, are listened to and receive appropriate support, including early help, and there is due regard for their mental health. Pupils confirmed they feel safe at school. Staff understand child-on-child abuse, including issues such as sexual harassment and sexual violence, and take appropriate action when incidents occur. Staff training in safeguarding, including for all members of the safeguarding team, is comprehensive including appropriate attention to handling allegations and online safety. The use of technology by pupils is suitably controlled. The school has an internet filtering system to block inappropriate content. Where allegations are made, the school responds appropriately making prompt referral to external agencies, including the Disclosure and Barring Service and Teaching Regulation Agency.
- 2.6 The school is likely to continue to meet the standard in the new premises.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 Health and safety requirements are met, and are overseen and monitored effectively by the proprietor and senior leaders. Suitable training regarding health and safety is in place for staff. Pupils feel that the school provides a safe environment. The new school premises have been built to a suitable standard with health and safety considerations taken fully into account.
- 2.9 The school is likely to continue to meet the standard in the new premises.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The fire risk policy is implemented effectively. The new premises have received a suitable fire-risk assessment. Recommended actions from the fire risk assessment are appropriately prioritised and carried out in a timely manner. There is suitable provision of signage, fire doors, alarms and fire-

fighting equipment. The local fire services are satisfied that the new premises meet required fire-safety standards. Staff receive suitable fire-safety training and demonstrate good awareness of risks, prevention and procedures in a fire emergency. Regular fire drills are held, and pupils are confident regarding evacuation procedures.

2.12 The school is likely to continue to meet the standard in the new premises.

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

2.13 The school meets the standard.

2.14 There is an appropriate risk-assessment policy which indicates that risk assessment is systematic and pays attention to key areas of risk and pupils' welfare, such as supervision, safety in specialist teaching areas and on school trips. Staff receive relevant training, and completed risk assessments are checked, monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness. Appropriate attention is given to additional risks which might be associated with pupils' SEMH and SEND. The new premises have received a suitably comprehensive site risk assessment.

2.15 The school is likely to continue to meet the standard in the new premises.

### **Premises and accommodation – toilet, washing and changing facilities, medical facilities, maintenance, acoustics, lighting, water supply and outdoor space [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23–29]**

2.16 The school meets the standards.

2.17 The new premises and accommodation meet all of the requirements. Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and 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 and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play and there is an additional indoor physical education and recreational area. The dining facility is adequate for the number of pupils.

2.18 The school is likely to continue to meet the standards in the new premises.

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

2.19 The school meets the standard.

2.20 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]**

2.21 The school meets the standard.

2.22 The proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. The proprietor and senior leaders have prepared for the proposed material change comprehensively and the school is likely to continue to meet the requirements in the new premises.

### **3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection**

#### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the material change request be approved. The school is likely to continue to meet the standards checked in the new premises.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff, met with the proprietor and talked with groups of pupils. He toured all areas of the new school premises. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.