

Material change inspection report

12 December 2024

The American School in London

1 Waverley Place

London

NW8 0NP

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 requested a material change request to increase the maximum number of pupils on roll from 1425 to 1550.

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards 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(a) and (b), 11, 12, 14 and 16(a) and (16(b))

1. Leaders ensure safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively throughout the school, including in the early years. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is a member of the school's senior management team. Members of the safeguarding leadership team have appropriate, up-to-date training, possess suitable knowledge and understanding and co-ordinate their work effectively. They ensure that staff receive appropriate training, including at induction, and are provided with regular updates about safeguarding.
2. Governors are appropriately trained and provide effective oversight of the school's safeguarding procedures. A governor reviews policy implementation with the safeguarding leadership team each term, including by checking the single central record of pre-employment safeguarding checks and personnel files. Governors review the safeguarding policy each year and receive a report on safeguarding and child protection twice each year from the school leaders.
3. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and are knowledgeable about the needs of pupils. They know how to report concerns regarding pupils in their care and act promptly and effectively when required. Leaders maintain an effective partnership with the local authority, children's services and other agencies. Referrals to external agencies are made in a timely and appropriate manner. Leaders monitor attendance weekly and inform the local authority, as required, of changes to the admissions register.
4. There is appropriate filtering and monitoring of the school's internet and leaders receive daily reports regarding its use. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online. They know they can raise concerns with trusted adults who will act promptly to provide suitable support.
5. The proprietor ensures that the school complies with the relevant health and safety laws by drawing up a suitable health and safety policy and implementing it effectively. Appropriate checks are conducted regularly and systematically recorded.
6. There is a suitable fire risk policy and staff receive fire safety training. An appropriately qualified professional conducts a fire risk assessment of the premises, and any recommendations are implemented. Fire safety equipment is properly maintained and termly fire drills are carried out and recorded.
7. Staff are effectively deployed to ensure that pupils are appropriately supervised, including in the early years. The school has suitable plans to maintain effective supervision with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
8. The proprietor ensures there is a systematic approach to risk assessment and mitigation. Guidance in writing risk assessments is provided for staff. Detailed risk assessments are in place to cover the

risk of radicalisation, premises and educational activities, including trips. Leaders check all risk assessments are suitable, including those in the early years.

9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR Paragraphs 18 to 21

10. The necessary pre-employment checks are carried out before adults begin working at the school. An appropriate single central record of appointments is accurately maintained. 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 23 to 29

11. Leaders ensure the provision of suitable toilet, changing and shower facilities, as well as accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs. Acoustics, lighting and water provision are appropriate. There is suitable outdoor space for pupils to play and take part in physical education. The premises and accommodation are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety requirements.

12. The proposed increase in pupil numbers will be distributed across the 14 year groups in the school. The school can accommodate the additional pupils without changes to the existing facilities or staffing. Leaders have planned a reorganisation of the dining hall to enable pupils to be served more efficiently and to accommodate increased numbers of pupils.

13. 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)

14. The particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding pupils are published on the school's website.

15. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standard if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

16. The proprietor and school leaders, demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the Standards are met. Leaders have carefully considered staffing and the provision of facilities so that the school can accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers and continue to promote the wellbeing of pupils.

17. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	The American School in London
Department for Education number	213/6215
Registered charity number	312738
Address	The American School in London 1 Waverley Place London NW8 0NP
Phone number	020 7449 1200
Email address	webmaster@asl.org
Website	www.asl.org
Proprietor	American School in London Trust
Chair	Dr Hahnah Seminara
Headteacher	Mr Matthew Horvat
Age range	4 to 18
Number of pupils	1441
Date of previous inspection	14 to 16 November 2023

Information about the school

19. The American School in London is a co-educational day school located in the London Borough of Westminster. The school consists of a lower, middle and high school, which includes a sixth form. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors. A new chair of governors was appointed in June 2024.
20. There are 36 children in the early years comprising two Reception classes.
21. The school has identified 155 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A very small proportion of pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
22. English is an additional language for 56 pupils.
23. The school states that its aims are to help every pupil 'thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character'.

Purpose of the material change inspection

An inspector carried out this inspection under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002 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 if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

12 December 2024

24. One reporting inspector visited the school for a day.

25. 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 assess the standard of the premises and accommodation
- discussions with the chair of governors and members of the governing body
- 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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