

Progress monitoring inspection

4 October 2024

Lime House School

Holm Hill

Dalston

Carlisle

Cumbria

CA5 7BX

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

Progress monitoring inspection: The school meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7a and 7b, 8a and 8b, 16 (a) and (b); NMS 8.1, 9.3 and 9.5

1. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place and are implemented effectively, including the safeguarding of boarders. All staff, including the school's safeguarding leaders, are suitably trained. Staff receive regular information and safeguarding updates to keep them well informed. Designated safeguarding leaders are knowledgeable about their roles and work well with other agencies to safeguard pupils, including the LADO.
2. Leaders ensure that safeguarding information is shared in a timely way with staff who are directly responsible for pupils' welfare. Safeguarding, pastoral, healthcare, and boarding staff work together to consider how best to meet the needs of individual pupils. Leaders use their shared knowledge to put in place suitable support plans, including referrals to child and adolescent mental health services when appropriate.
3. The proprietor maintains effective oversight of the school's safeguarding procedures and their implementation, including boarding. Regular meetings take place between the proprietor and the school's designated safeguarding leaders to review the arrangements that are in place to safeguard pupils. This includes arrangements for safeguarding pupils when they are off site and attending school trips. The proprietor ensures that an annual safeguarding review takes place and that leaders act promptly on any recommendations.
4. Concerns raised by pupils are monitored and acted upon by the DSL. Records confirm that when pupils raise a concern, they receive a timely response, and action is taken where needed. Pupils who board receive a detailed induction when they start school, including how to keep themselves safe and who to talk to if they have worries or concerns. They know how to contact the school's independent listeners. Pupils are also provided with information so that they know how to contact helplines, including Childline and the Children's Commissioner. Pupils can identify designated staff to whom they can turn if they are worried or concerned.
5. Leaders have put in place an appropriate risk assessment policy. Risk assessments are suitably detailed and regularly reviewed. Leaders ensure that staff who are responsible for writing and reviewing risk assessments take appropriate action to reduce risks to pupils. This includes assessing and reducing risks relating to school trips and the school site, for example, fenced areas from local farmland and large trees with overhanging branches. Leaders also ensure that appropriate measures are in place to reduce potential risks posed to staff and pupils by extremism and radicalisation.
6. The planning and procedures for offsite visits are detailed and clear with appropriate checks and approval in place. Parents receive detailed information about school trips, including behaviour expectations, safeguarding procedures, activities and travel details. Risk assessments are amended if changes occur. Any changes to arrangements are communicated to parents without delay. Staff have

received relevant training and guidance and are confident to complete risk assessments, including those for offsite visits and residential trips.

7. The school has updated its attendance procedures in line with current guidance. However, leaders had not published an up to date policy on the school's website as they are required to do. This was rectified during the inspection.
8. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

9. The school meets the requirements for providing parents with information about safeguarding. Particulars of the safeguarding arrangements are published on the school's website.
10. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2); NMS 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.8

11. The proprietor and senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively. This includes meeting previously unmet Standards. The proprietor and leaders have put in place appropriate arrangements and oversight to meet the requirements for reporting low-level concerns about adults, and the effective oversight and management of risk.
12. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Lime House School
Department for Education number	942/6001
Address	Lime House School Holm Hill Dalston Carlisle Cumbria CA5 7BX
Phone number	01288 710225
Email address	office@limehouseschool.co.uk
Website	www.limehouseschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Mr Nigel Rice
Headteacher	Mr Michael John Smith
Age range	7 to 18
Number of pupils	71
Number of boarding pupils	44
Date of previous inspection	12 to 14 March 2024

Information about the school

13. Lime House School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school. The school comprises a junior school and a senior school, including a sixth form, situated on the same site, with some shared facilities. It is owned, governed and managed by three proprietors, one of whom is a former headmaster. A new headmaster was appointed, in September 2024.
14. Boarders, from the age of 11, are accommodated in five houses, three for male pupils and two for female pupils.
15. The school has identified six pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Three pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
16. English is an additional language for 43 pupils.
17. The school states it aims to provide a safe and caring school environment in which pupils are treated as individuals, and a high-quality education so that pupils can achieve their full potential both academically and socially. The objective is to produce successful, confident, happy pupils who are prepared for life beyond school.

Purpose of the progress monitoring inspection

18. Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. This inspection was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection which was carried out at the request of the DfE. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other requirements that were not met at the previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection date 4 October 2024

19. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.
20. Inspection activities included:
 - scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
 - discussions with the proprietor
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils and staff
 - 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

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