



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

St Christopher's School, Hove

October 2023

School's details

School College	St Christopher's School			
DfE number	846/6011			
Registered charity number	307061			
Address	St Christopher's School 33 New Church Road Hove East Sussex BN3 4AD			
Telephone number	01273 735404			
Email address	office@stchristophershove.org.uk			
Headteacher	Ms Elizabeth Lyle			
Chair of governors	Mr Adrian Underwood			
Proprietor	St Christopher's School, Hove			
Age range	4 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	276			
	Pre-prep	107	Middle school	99
	Upper school	70		
Date of inspection	3 October 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Christopher’s School is an independent co-educational day school. One of the Brighton College family of schools, it is administered by its own board of governors. The school is divided into three sections: pre-prep for pupils from Reception to Year 3, middle school comprising Years 4 to 6 and upper school for Years 7 and 8. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is located about a mile away on the same site as the school’s playing fields. The school has identified 40 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil in the school has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 31 pupils. The school’s previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection which took place in November 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance and educational quality inspection in November 2022. The inspection focused on the school’s compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.7	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (Provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.2 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding that 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 school implements its procedures effectively. It acts in the best interests of the child. Pupils confirm that they are confident to express any concerns they have, that staff and school leaders listen to them, and that action would be taken promptly, if needed. They say that they are well educated about online safety and the school has effective systems in place to monitor and filter the internet.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and her deputy are suitably trained at the advanced level, and they train staff, both in face-to-face sessions and using online resources. There is a suitable DSL in place for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and children there are effectively safeguarded. Staff demonstrate effective understanding of safeguarding procedures and are conversant with how to report any concerns they may have. They confirm that they understand their code of conduct and state that they would use the whistleblowing procedure without hesitation, should it be necessary. A system is in place to report any low-level concerns they have about colleagues, and they use this with confidence.
- 2.6 A new digital system of reporting concerns about children ensures that all are now reported in one centralised log, including any for children in the EYFS. For each pupil, a suitable chronology of key actions in response to any concern is kept. Detailed communications and supporting documents are easily accessible. The log is confidential, secure and managed effectively by the DSL. Oversight, by both the safeguarding governor and the wider governing body, is effective and provides suitable support and challenge. Staff have been trained in the use of the new system, and ongoing monitoring is continuing.
- 2.7 The school acts in accordance with locally agreed multi-agency procedures and refers any concerns which meet the threshold appropriately.

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

- 2.8 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]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Senior leaders and managers have now implemented a new system for the reporting, management and monitoring of any concerns about pupils effectively. They have trained staff appropriately in its use. Consequently, they have demonstrated good skills and knowledge so that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively in ensuring that standards are met and pupils' wellbeing is actively promoted.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

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