



## **Progress Monitoring Inspection Report**

**Oakhill School**

**October 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Oakhill School			
<b>DfE number</b>	888/6012			
<b>Early Years registration number</b>	EY312065			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1048514			
<b>Address</b>	Oakhill School Wiswell Lane Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 9AF			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01254 823546			
<b>Email address</b>	enquiries@oakhillschool.co.uk			
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs Jane BATTERY			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Anthony Baron			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Oakhill College Ltd			
<b>Age range</b>	0 to 16			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	302			
	<b>EYFS</b>	153	<b>Prep</b>	63
	<b>Seniors</b>	86		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	4 October 2023			

# 1. Introduction

## Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Oakhill School is a co-educational day school consisting of three sections: the nursery, which includes the registered and non-registered Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) settings; the preparatory department for pupils in Reception to Year 6; and the senior department for pupils in Years 7 to 11. Of the 153 children in the EYFS, a number attend on a part-time basis, either for the morning session or for the afternoon session. As a result, the maximum number of pupils on the site at any one time is 279. The school's proprietor, Oakhill College Ltd, is overseen by an advisory governing body, which is chaired by the chair of the company. The school has 34 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Eight pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and five pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a progress monitoring inspection 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 progress monitoring inspection on 17 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.
- 1.3 Additionally, this inspection serves as a material change inspection to assess the school's proposal to increase its total capacity from 279 to 320 pupils.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.7 and 3.9	<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 14 (supervision of pupils)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23–29 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) and (d) (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; EYFS 3.4, 3.7 and 3.9]**

#### **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 and the requirements.
- 2.4 Safeguarding procedures are suitably implemented in line with the most recent statutory guidance. The two designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) and their deputy work effectively to promote the wellbeing of pupils. In discussion, pupils confirmed that that they can raise any concerns with any member of staff and that, if they do so, they receive an appropriate response. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts swiftly to respond to any concerns it receives about pupils and that it liaises appropriately with local agencies. Pupils receive suitable advice about online safety. The school has strengthened systems to filter and monitor pupils' use of the internet, and has provided training for staff in the new procedures.
- 2.5 Staff, including those with leadership responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained. All staff complete training in the risks associated with terrorism and extremism. Records are kept systematically and show that training for all staff is current, appropriate and in line with local safeguarding requirements. In discussion, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of how to report any concerns they may have about adults in the school and confirmed that they would do so without hesitation. There is an appropriate approach to reporting low-level concerns about adults working with children. Staff are particularly aware of the vulnerability of any pupils who may be identified as having SEND and are alert to concerns about pupils' mental health. The introduction of a mentor system in the senior school has had a positive impact on pupils' wellbeing and its effectiveness was acknowledged in discussion with pupils. Staff confirm that they are aware of the procedures necessary to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse and recognise the possibility that such abuse may be taking place without being reported.
- 2.6 Effective procedures are implemented to ensure that appropriate and timely checks are made to confirm the suitability of staff. This includes ensuring that, where staff commence work in regulated activity before a suitable DBS check is seen, a separate barred list check is undertaken. Senior leaders and governors have a clear understanding of their safeguarding roles and responsibilities. The proprietor exercises suitable oversight of the school's safeguarding arrangements and governors are trained appropriately. Oversight is sufficiently rigorous and is maintained through an annual review of policy and procedures, in addition to regular monitoring and discussion of safeguarding arrangements.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The proprietor ensures that the school complies with relevant health and safety laws by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. Systematic records show that utilities, plant and equipment are tested on a regular basis. There are effective avenues for staff to

report concerns about health and safety issues, which enable trends to be identified and risks to be mitigated.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school has a suitable fire-safety policy which includes the elimination of risks from dangerous substances. A comprehensive fire-risk assessment of the premises has been undertaken. Checks of systems, equipment and escape routes are carried out regularly and recorded appropriately. Staff and pupils understand the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. Termly fire drills are carried out and recorded.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]**

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Staffing arrangements in the EYFS settings are in line with required ratios, thus meeting the needs of children and ensuring their safety. In the prep and senior schools, pupils are appropriately supervised through the effective deployment of staff.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The school's risk assessment policy clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of staff in identifying and mitigating risk. Appropriate and suitably thorough risk assessments are drawn up for all areas of the site, in-school activities and trips and visits. The needs of individual pupils are also taken into account where risk is identified.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]**

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 All the required checks are undertaken on staff, governors and volunteers before they take up their posts. The school does not employ supply staff. A register is kept as required, and all appointments are accurately and fully recorded.

### **Premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23–29]**

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises, including teaching accommodation and social areas for pupils, are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate and water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

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

- 2.19 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. A copy of the school's previous inspection report is published on the school's website.

**Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]**

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 School leaders and governors demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted. The proprietor's oversight is sufficiently rigorous to ensure that all safeguarding requirements are met, including in the EYFS.

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

### **Summary of findings**

- 4.1 The school has 302 pupils currently registered. This includes 153 children in the EYFS settings, a number of whom attend on a part-time basis. The total capacity of the EYFS settings is 112 children at any one time, in order to ensure that the required staff ratios are maintained. Records show that these numbers are controlled effectively and not exceeded. The school meets the standards that were the focus of this inspection with 302 registered pupils and is likely to continue to do so if that number is increased to 320, as requested.

### **Recommendation**

- 4.2 It is recommended that the material change be approved.



## **5. Summary of evidence**

- 5.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a governor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.