



**Progress Monitoring Inspection Report**

**Handel House Preparatory School**

**September 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Handel House Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	925/6023			
<b>Address</b>	Handel House Preparatory School The Northolme Gainsborough Lincolnshire DN21 2JB			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01427 612426			
<b>Email address</b>	admin@handelhouseschool.com			
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Mark Raisborough			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr Mark Raisborough			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 11			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	47			
	<b>EYFS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Juniors</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Date of inspection</b>	12 September 2023			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Handel House Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school. The school is located in a residential area of the market town of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The school is a limited company and the proprietor is also the headteacher. It includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting. The school has identified 10 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil in the school has an education, health and care (EHC) plan and no pupils have English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and education quality 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 school's focused compliance and education 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)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<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]

#### 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 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively, including those related to the welfare of the pupils with SEND and children in the EYFS. Arrangements reflect the current guidance appropriately. Senior leaders ensure that where appropriate they access both support and guidance from the local authority in handling safeguarding matters. They work closely with the school's local advisory board. The school provides appropriate support for pupils' needs. Staff listen to children and take appropriate and timely action when pupils raise concerns. Pupils confirmed this and it is evident in records of safeguarding. All staff have received suitable training on the recent changes in statutory guidance and online safety. When new staff are appointed, they complete a comprehensive induction process to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. All staff are familiarised with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles. They have the appropriate level of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular updates to all staff and opportunities for discussion on any changes to safeguarding policies and their implementation.
- 2.5 Staff throughout the school have a full understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They are clear on the procedures for reporting any concerns about pupils and operate these appropriately. Staff are alert to the particular needs of individual pupils and respond to these appropriately. They are clear on the types of child-on-child abuse that can occur, including any relating to protected characteristics. They understand the significance of reacting to and reporting such behaviours effectively. The school maintains appropriate and detailed records of any safeguarding concerns. These show timely and appropriate liaison with both parents and local agencies, including the local safeguarding partnership. There is an effective code of conduct for staff, which makes clear the high expectations required of all staff working in the school.
- 2.6 There are appropriate measures to handle any allegations against adults working in the school. Staff understand these and are prepared to report any concerns they may have. The proprietor and advisory board undertake an annual safeguarding review with due diligence. They demonstrate suitable rigour in their oversight of arrangements. This includes, if necessary, consultation with external professionals and undertaking a review of any safeguarding incidents that may occur. The proprietor and advisory board members have all received appropriate training in safeguarding.
- 2.7 Previous omissions in the checking of suitable references and prohibition from teaching checks prior to staff starting work at the school have now been appropriately addressed. This includes ensuring that the checks of staff working in the EYFS also complete the required safer recruitment processes. Improved monitoring of safer recruitment at proprietor, senior leader and advisory board level now enables effective oversight of recruitment processes. It has ensured that since the previous inspection, all required checks of new staff have been undertaken appropriately. They have been recorded in a timely manner when staff are appointed. Staff checks recorded now correspond to the details contained in staff files, with all the required data being appropriately entered. A recently introduced

double signatory check of documentation contained in staff files ensures that the appropriate documents are listed correctly.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The school now carries out all required checks on new staff and the proprietor. Checks undertaken on the entry of data into the staff single central register (SCR) indicate that the process of recording recruitment checks on potential and existing staff is now appropriate. A relatively new format of SCR is in place which is beneficial in this regard. Previous omissions in the checking processes have all been appropriately addressed. Senior leaders and advisory board members jointly undertake regular checks of the SCR to check its accuracy. The school's half termly safeguarding audits include maintenance of the SCR as an integral part of this review.

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

- 2.10 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 and provided to parents on request.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The proprietor and senior leaders have implemented all of the points in the school's action plan effectively. Appropriate measures are in place to support ongoing compliance, particularly in the case of staff recruitment. The proprietor and advisory board members together with the senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge to ensure their duties and responsibilities are fulfilled effectively, that the standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of pupils 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 proprietor, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a member of the advisory board. The inspector talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.