



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

The King's School, Witney

January 2024

School's details

School	The King's School			
DfE number	931/6100			
Registered charity number	1056921			
Address	The King's School New Yatt Road Witney OX29 6TA			
Telephone number	01993 778463			
Email address	office@tkswitney.org.uk			
Principal	Mrs Lynne Weber			
Interim chair of governors	Mr Alastair Barnett			
Proprietor	Oxfordshire Community Churches			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	206			
	EYFS	21	Primary	81
	Secondary	104		
Inspection dates	16 January 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The King's School is an independent co-educational day school. It is part of the Oxfordshire Community Churches (OCC) group, a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The proprietors are the trustees of the OCC who delegate many of their responsibilities to a board of governors. The school consists of three sections: an early years setting, for pupils aged three to five; the primary school, for those aged five to eleven; and the secondary school for pupils aged eleven to sixteen. The school has 50 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. One pupil has an education, health and care plan. There are 19 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The principal took up her post in September 2023. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in May 2023.

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 May 2023. 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 are the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraphs 2 (curriculum) and 2A (relationships and sex education) and Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum; relationships and sex education (RSE); and Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSRs Part 1, paragraphs 2 and 2A] and Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.1 The school meets the standards.
- 2.2 A suitable, revised curriculum for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and RSE is now in place and is implemented successfully by the school. The arrangements are supported by detailed plans and schemes of work. Schemes of work for relationships and sex education pay due regard to statutory guidance in that pupils are effectively prepared for experiences in future life. In its provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, the school actively promotes principles which encourage respect for other people, including in relation to sex and sexual orientation. This was confirmed by scrutiny of planning, along with discussions with leaders, staff and pupils. Leaders have ensured, through consultation with external authorities and stakeholders that the curriculum is now both suitable and appropriate. Those responsible for implementing the curriculum and the promotion of SMSC development are suitably trained and supported by leaders. The governing board has ensured that sufficiently robust monitoring of implementation has occurred, including the commission of specialist external auditing. The result is that pupils are now appropriately prepared for experiences in their future lives.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.3 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.4 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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school's safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively to ensure the welfare of pupils, including children in the early years. Since the previous inspection, the school has expanded the variety of channels through which pupils can report concerns, including anonymously. Discussions with both staff and pupils confirmed that there is now an open culture of safeguarding. This is one to which all can contribute and where all concerns are listened to and acted upon swiftly. Pupils confirmed in discussions that they can approach any trusted adult to share a concern they may have. When they do so they receive a response and action is taken if necessary. Records of safeguarding confirm that this happens in practice. The school handles online safety effectively, including the monitoring and filtering of technology. These are overseen appropriately by the designated safeguarding lead and governors. Pupils confirmed that the school provides clear guidance to help them to keep safe online.
- 2.7 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) has a secure oversight of safeguarding arrangements and ensures that the safeguarding team keeps detailed confidential records of any concerns. These confirm that senior leaders work within locally agreed inter-agency procedures and that any referrals of safeguarding concerns are made to the appropriate agencies in a timely manner.

- 2.8 The designated governor for safeguarding ensures that an annual review of the school's safeguarding arrangements. This is carried out using a template from the local safeguarding partnership and shared with the governing board. The review is sufficiently detailed and meets local safeguarding partnership requirements.
- 2.9 All staff, including leaders, governors and those with specific safeguarding responsibility, are trained appropriately in safeguarding. Staff show confident understanding of the training they receive, including that regarding signs of abuse, child-on-child abuse and also areas such as mental health, sexual violence and harassment. Regular updates to training supplement the ongoing annual training received by all staff, and appropriate induction for new staff. These are supported by quizzes to ensure a sufficient audit of safeguarding understanding. Staff have a confident understanding of the process for referral should there be any concerns. Suitable arrangements exist to handle allegations against any adult working with children and appropriate recruitment checks are required by governors for new staff. Staff understand the school's code of conduct for staff and the whistleblowing policy. They know how to contact children's services direct, should the need arise.
- 2.10 There is an appropriate Prevent strategy in place which is suitably implemented.

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

- 2.11 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]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school's leadership and management now demonstrate the required skills and knowledge to ensure that all standards are met consistently. They have ensured that the action plan required following the previous inspection has been fully implemented. Leaders take appropriate action, supported by effective proprietorial oversight and challenge. They apply their skills and knowledge effectively to ensure that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that 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 inspectors held discussions with the senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.