



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Abbey School

September 2023

School's details

School	Abbey School			
DfE number	880/6000			
Early Years registration number	EY234164			
Address	Abbey School Hampton Court Fore Street St Marychurch Torquay Devon TQ1 4PR			
Telephone number	01803 327868			
Email address	secretary@abbeyschool.co.uk			
Headteacher	Miss Fleur Greinig			
Proprietor	Mrs Sylvia Greinig			
Age range	0 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	115			
	EYFS	72	Juniors	43
Date of inspection	28 September 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Abbey School is a co-educational nursery and day school. It includes a registered Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting. The sole proprietor acts as the principal of the school, with management delegated to the headteacher, who is their daughter. The school has identified 23 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan (EHC). Seventeen pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a progress monitoring inspection in January 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 progress monitoring inspection in January 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 were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.7, 3.9	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); EYFS 3.65	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	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 3.4, 3.7 and 3.9 Child Protection]

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 to promote pupils' welfare are implemented effectively. Suitable understanding of statutory requirements ensures that the school provides appropriate support for pupils' needs, including listening to children and taking appropriate action when concerns are raised. Pupils confirmed this to be the case, and records of safeguarding show appropriate management of concerns. All staff have received suitable training on the most recent changes to statutory guidance. This includes the management of filtering and monitoring systems to ensure pupils' online safety. New staff complete an appropriate induction process to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes reading and understanding *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)* Part 1 and Annex B; the staff code of conduct; whistleblowing procedures; procedures for children absent from education; and the school's behaviour policy. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles, and have appropriate levels of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular informal updates to staff and opportunities for discussion on any changes to safeguarding policy and its implementation.
- 2.5 Staff have a secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, including for any pupils with SEND and the particular needs of children in the EYFS. They recognise the importance of 'early help' strategies, know how to report any concerns about pupils or other staff and adults working with children, and do so appropriately. They understand the varied types of child-on-child abuse and the seriousness of such behaviours. Appropriate records for safeguarding concerns are maintained, which are regularly monitored by the DSL. Recent records demonstrate timely and appropriate liaison with both parents and local agencies. The proprietor is suitably trained and undertakes an annual safeguarding review which demonstrates appropriate knowledge and awareness of the requirements. A full review of the recruitment of new staff has been undertaken since the previous inspection, and all staff involved in the process have completed training for safe recruitment and for the management of the single central register of appointments (SCR). Suitable references are now received for all staff before they commence employment, and senior staff understand the context of when a risk assessment and supervision process is appropriate when the disclosure and barring check has been delayed. The head and DSL team undertake regular audits and checks on recruitment files and the SCR. They provide suitable support and challenge.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]; [EYFS 3.65]

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 The school has completed the action plan required following the previous inspection. A suitable risk assessment policy and strategic arrangements are in place to ensure that risks are appropriately

identified, and action taken to reduce risk across the school site, including in the EYFS. This includes making provision for appropriate storage of hazardous or flammable materials. All staff who are involved in producing risk assessments for activities, trips off site, or areas of the school have received appropriate training which is updated when necessary and is consistent in approach. The planning process for off-site visits, including a detailed risk assessment, has been developed effectively and is used consistently. Suitable assessment is made where new risks are identified. Senior staff and the proprietor oversee the risk-assessment process, sign off the assessments and evaluate their effectiveness.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Senior staff and the proprietor now undertake a regular audit of the recruitment process which includes scrutiny of the single central register of appointments (SCR) and associated staff personnel files. The school now ensures that two references are received for staff before they begin work. The staff completing the range of employment checks now understand the full context of when a process of risk assessment and supervision may be used in cases where the disclosure and barring service certificate has not been received before a member of staff is due to start work.

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.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school has successfully implemented the action plan required by the previous inspection. Since that inspection, all staff who oversee the recruitment process have completed safer recruitment training, and the proprietor and senior leaders have completed a full review of the systems employed, including the SCR. A termly audit is undertaken of the checks on all new staff. Staff have received training and advice on conducting effective risk assessments. They confirm that they feel confident to undertake regular risk assessments and that they are now fully involved and understand the strategic approach to managing risk across the school. The school's leadership and management now demonstrate good knowledge and skills and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. Proprietorial review is appropriately robust and supportive to ensure that policies are implemented effectively, and the school actively promotes the wellbeing of all pupils, including children 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. Summary of evidence

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