

KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL

Kingham, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 6TH

20 NOVEMBER 2017

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

The school is a co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged between 11 and 18 years. It has eight boarding houses and three day houses. The school was established in 1886 by the Christian philanthropist Charles Edward Baring Young, as a place where children with a boarding need could be educated and prepared for life. The school is owned by a charitable trust, the Kingham Hill Trust, and is administered by a board of governors, some of whom are also trustees. There are 305 pupils in the school, 194 boys and 111 girls, and of these 186 are boarders. The school has identified 82 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), 51 of whom receive support for a range of learning needs including dyslexia and dyspraxia. Three pupils have education, health and care (EHC) plans. There are 42 pupils who receive support for English as an additional language (EAL).

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an announced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the Regulatory Compliance Inspection on 28 to 29 June 2017. The focus of the visit was on: the welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding boarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 8 (a) and (b), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding paragraph 4.]

The previous inspection found failings of NMS 4 and consequently ISSR 8(a) and 8 (b) and provided an action point:

The school must ensure that boarding pupils have suitable opportunities to contact family and friends in private.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) & 8 (a) and (b); NMS 11]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The school meets the regulations and standard.

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. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils including boarders by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance.

Safeguarding is correctly managed and procedures are regularly reviewed, an annual review is conducted by governors. All members of staff, including those with designated responsibility for safeguarding have appropriate levels of safeguarding training, attend regular update training and have a clear understanding of safeguarding and

their responsibilities. Suitable arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff, which includes training in safeguarding.

The school liaises effectively with local agencies and when required, staff understand that prompt action must be taken if concerns are expressed about a child. The designated safeguarding lead maintains appropriate and regular contact with the relevant children's services as required. Suitable procedures are in place to deal with allegations against members of staff; there have been no referrals to DBS or NCTL needed since the previous inspection.

Pupils interviewed said they feel happy and safe in the school. They confirmed that there are adults within the school to whom they would turn if they had an anxiety or personal concern and they were confident that they would receive help.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding boarding and contact with parents [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 8 (a) and (b) and NMS 4]

The school meets the regulations and standard.

Boarding pupils have access to their mobile phones from late afternoon to mid evening during the week and all day during weekends. However, the mobile carrier signal strength in some parts of the school and the time limits on the availability of the school wireless facility pose limitations upon access to the means of contacting family and friends. In each boarding house, additional provision is made for pupils to contact family and friends by means of a telephone in the houseparents' offices and a private pay telephone facility. Since the previous inspection, the school established in early November 2017 a bookable room near the school reception for pupils who wish to make private telephone calls: this new provision is being used by pupils on a daily basis.

Some boarding pupils interviewed during the visit indicated that they welcomed this change; but others said that they would prefer a more relaxed approach to access to their personal mobile devices and to the availability of the school wireless facility thereby providing more frequent contact across a greater part of the day with friends and family.

Based on all evidence available including discussions with pupils, checks on the availability of wireless and mobile phone access in several locations around the school site, and the records of use of the recently established private room for contact with parents, the inspectors judged that access for pupils to their parents/carers and families is suitable.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015.