



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Dean Close School

October 2019



School's details

School	Dean Close School			
DfE number	916/6035			
Registered charity number	1086829			
Address	Dean Close School Shelburne Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 6HE			
Telephone number	01242 258000			
Email address	office@deanclose.org.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Bradley Salisbury			
Chair of governors	Mrs Kathryn Carden			
Age range	13 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	468			
	Day pupils	220	Boarders	248
	Seniors	279	Sixth Form	189
Date of visit	11 October 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Dean Close School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 13 to 18 years. It is part of the Dean Close Foundation family of schools and is administered by board of trustees. Boarders are accommodated in six boarding houses, three for male pupils and three for female pupils. Ninety-nine pupils require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom have an education, health and care plan. One hundred and twelve pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous focussed compliance and educational inspections took place on 19 to 21 March 2019.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an announced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focussed compliance and educational inspections of 19 to 21 March 2019

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding), 8 (safeguarding of boarders), and NMS 11 (child protection)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18(2)(f) and 18(3) (appointment of staff), and NMS 14.1 (staff recruitment and checks on other adults)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints), and NMS 18 (complaints)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership in and management of schools), and NMS 13.1, 13.3, 13.4, and 13.5 (management and development of boarding)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]

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 standards.
- 2.4 All staff, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSL, are suitably trained. They understand and implement appropriate procedures should any safeguarding concern arise. The trustees monitor the school's safeguarding policy and procedures regularly and rigorously. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that its safer recruitment procedures meet the requirements of the current version of Keeping Children Safe in Education. In particular, it has ensured that all recruitment checks, including those against the list of those prohibited from teaching or management, are completed before staff commence employment at the school.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

- 2.5 The school meets the standards.
- 2.6 The school implements a suitable anti-bullying policy effectively. It helps pupils recognise the risk of different types of bullying and understand how to minimise these. Leaders and staff act swiftly and proportionately should any bullying incidents occur. Discussions with staff and pupils and scrutiny of the log of bullying incidents confirmed that leaders have successfully embedded a strong anti-bullying culture across the school.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18; NMS 14]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school conducts all appropriate pre-employment checks as required and records these clearly in a single central register of appointments. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that it obtains and keeps a record of medical fitness for each member of staff before they commence working at the school.

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

- 2.9 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.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33; NMS 18]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 The school has a suitable complaints procedure, which it makes available to parents. During the inspection the school recognised that in the past some aspects of its implementation of the complaints procedure put potential barriers in the way of any parents who might have wanted to escalate their

complaint to the panel hearing stage. The school took immediate, decisive and effective actions to remove these potential barriers and hence ensure correct implementation.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34; NMS 13.3-5]

2.12 The school meets the standards.

2.13 The proprietor, leaders and managers have ensured that the school has successfully completed the actions required as a result of the previous inspection. As a result, the school has ensured that the leadership and management of the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all of the standards are met consistently.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the deputy heads, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the warden and the safeguarding trustee. They talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.