



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Brooke House College

February 2022

School's details

College	Brooke House College			
DfE number	855/6005			
Address	Brooke House College 12 Leicester Road Market Harborough Leicestershire LE16 7AU			
Telephone number	01858 462452			
Email address	enquiries@brookehouse.com			
Principal	Mr Ian Smith			
Proprietor	Mrs Joan Williams			
Age range	11 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	234			
	Day pupils	16	Boarders	218
	Seniors	97	Sixth Form	137
Date of visit	17 February 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Brooke House College is an independent co-educational day and boarding school situated in Market Harborough. The school is overseen by a single proprietor, supported by an advisory committee. Boarding provision is available from Year 7 and there are nine boarding houses, four of which are situated on the main school campus and the others across the town. The school has eight pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 160 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The previous inspection was an educational quality inspection together with a focused compliance inspection which took place in September 2021.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced 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 educational quality and focused compliance inspections of 21 to 24 September 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8 (safeguarding); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 7	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 6	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 14	Met
Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance); NMS 5	Met
Part 5, paragraph 30 (boarding accommodation); NMS 5	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management); NMS 13	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 The school implements its procedures effectively. It acts in the best interests of the child and enables pupils to express any concerns. Pupils who spoke to the inspectors said that they felt that leaders and staff listen to them and that they would be confident to share any worries with school personnel. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs provide sufficient cover for the role, including in boarding and the sixth form. They and all other staff have received suitable safeguarding training. Staff demonstrate understanding of their responsibilities under the staff code of conduct. They show an appropriate awareness of different types of abuse and the particular vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND to these. Staff also understand safeguarding procedures, including those relating to any allegations against staff, child-on-child abuse and how to respond to disclosures. Those who spoke to the inspectors expressed confidence and willingness to make use of whistleblowing procedures should the need arise.
- 2.5 Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts appropriately when pupils express any concern. It acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures, including by referring concerns to external agencies when appropriate. Records also confirm the effectiveness of the school's response to child-on-child abuse, including through the support provided to victims and perpetrators alike. The school educates pupils how to look after their own mental health and stay safe, including when online. The school internet is appropriately filtered and monitored.
- 2.6 The proprietor maintains an effective overview of safeguarding, including through a suitable annual review that is shared with the local authority. The school implements an effective safer recruitment policy. In particular, it ensures that at least two references are received for all staff before they begin work. It also ensures that, when appropriate, prohibition from teaching checks are carried out on staff, including sports coaches, before they commence working at the school.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 7]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school implements a suitable fire safety policy effectively. It ensures that staff, including the competent person, receive appropriate fire safety training. The school ensures that all checks and maintenance relating to fire safety are carried out systematically. Fire evacuation drills take place each term, alongside additional termly fire evacuation drills in boarding time. Since the previous inspection, the school ensures that fire risk assessments for all school premises are reviewed regularly by the competent person and that any recommendations are implemented promptly.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 6]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.

- 2.10 The school implements a suitable written risk assessment policy effectively. In particular, since the previous inspection the school ensures that fire risk assessments for all school premises are reviewed regularly by the competent person. Any recommendations are implemented promptly.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 14]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school conducts all required pre-employment checks on staff before they commence work at the school. It does not use supply staff. Checks are recorded in an appropriate single central register of appointments. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school ensures that it carries out suitable checks on medical fitness and, where appropriate, qualifications, before staff commence working at the school.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25; NMS 5]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Scrutiny of maintenance logs and the tour of the school confirm that all required checks and maintenance are carried out systematically across the school premises and accommodation. The school ensures that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

Premises and accommodation – boarding accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 30; NMS 5]

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The tour of the school confirms that the school provides boarders with suitable accommodation. Male and female pupils have separate boarding accommodation. Suitable sleeping accommodation and toilet and washing facilities are provided. Staff accommodation is separate to that of the boarders. Boarding accommodation is appropriately lit, heated, furnished, cleaned and maintained. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school ensures that recommendations from fire risk assessments which relate to boarding accommodation are implemented swiftly.

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

- 2.17 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; NMS 13]

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 The proprietor ensures effective oversight so that that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. In particular, the proprietor and school leaders have ensured that the school has implemented effectively the action plan required following the previous inspection.

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