



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

**Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit
and Material Change Visit**

Prestfelde School

March 2022

School's details

School	Prestfelde School			
DfE number	893/6008			
Registered charity number	1102931			
Address	Prestfelde School London Road Shrewsbury Shropshire SY2 6NZ			
Telephone number	01743 245400			
Email address	office@prestfelde.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Fiona Orchard			
Chair of governors	Mr Rex Sartain			
Age range	3 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	350			
	Day pupils	350	Boarders	20
	EYFS	48	Years 1 and 2	55
	Middle school	116	Senior school	131
Date of visit	23 March 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Prestfelde School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school. Founded in 1929, it is situated on the edge of Shrewsbury in Shropshire. It is administered as a charitable trust with its own governing body.
- 1.2 The school comprises three departments: Little Prestfelde, for pupils aged from three to seven which includes the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS); the middle school, for pupils aged from seven to ten; and the senior school, for pupils aged from ten to thirteen. There is one boarding house where pupils board on an occasional, 'flexi' basis from the age of seven.
- 1.3 The school has identified 26 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil in the school has an education, health and care plan. There are ten pupils requiring support for English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a material change inspection in October 2021.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.4 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 inspection of 18 October 2021. The visit also assessed the school's proposal to increase its capacity to 365. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire); NMS 7	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	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, paragraphs 23–30 (premises and accommodation); NMS 3 and 5	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding and safeguarding of boarders [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's safeguarding policy and associated arrangements are implemented effectively to ensure a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn to for support. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and that appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding. Records show that the school takes appropriate action to meet the needs of children in need or at risk. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the school has sufficient filtering and monitoring procedures in place to ensure appropriate use at all times, including during boarding hours.
- 2.5 The school liaises effectively with local agencies, where necessary. It now ensures that any concern relating to an adult working in the school is promptly referred to the local authority and that their advice is given due consideration prior to undertaking an investigation, and at all subsequent stages. All staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed. The safeguarding policy contains appropriate guidance to staff on raising low-level concerns and this guidance is implemented. Staff understand the different types of peer-on-peer abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise.
- 2.6 The governing body has appropriate measures in place to ensure that should a specific safeguarding concern arise it is handled effectively. They maintain consistent and sufficiently rigorous oversight to ensure safeguarding is managed correctly, including through appropriate recruitment measures. This is done through regular visits to the school and meetings with key staff by the nominated safeguarding governor, who reports regularly to the full board, and through the governor's annual review of policy and practice. Arrangements are sufficient to safeguard the welfare of the proposed increased number of pupils.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 6]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school has a suitable policy to address health and safety that is implemented effectively by the estates team with the support of external contractors as appropriate. Suitable records of installation and servicing are maintained to confirm appropriate checks are undertaken, and staff receive suitable training in relation to safe working practice during induction, as well as further training specific to their roles. The health and safety committee meets regularly to review any accidents or concerns. There are sufficient facilities to enable increased numbers of pupils to learn effectively and safely.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 The proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The school completes a regular fire risk assessment for all its buildings and acts upon any recommendations promptly. It ensures that equipment for fire detection, firefighting and alarm systems is inspected and maintained regularly in accordance with requirements. Regular fire drills, which take place both during the school day and in boarding time, are recorded suitably and confirm efficient evacuation of the buildings. Arrangements are sufficient to give protection with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 15]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school ensures appropriate levels of pupil supervision throughout the school day. Flexi-boarders are suitably supervised by staff undertaking boarding duties, including residential staff. Pupils confirm that they are always able to locate a member of staff easily including at night. Arrangements are sufficient to ensure the welfare of the proposed increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy and ensures appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified for current pupils, including boarders. Staff receive guidance in the preparation of risk assessments, and these are reviewed regularly by management. The school has assessed risk in relation to increased numbers of pupils appropriately.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Visitors to boarding accommodation are appropriately supervised.

Premises and accommodation – toilet and washing facilities [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23; NMS 5]

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 Sufficient toilet and washing facilities are dispersed across the school site, including in boarding areas. These include suitable male and female changing accommodation, showers and disabled facilities. Arrangements are sufficient for the proposed increased number of pupils.

Premises and accommodation – medical facilities [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 24; NMS 3]

- 2.19 The school meets the standards.
- 2.20 Pupils' medical needs are catered for suitably by qualified staff. Pupils are treated in the medical centre, which is furnished with lockable first aid and medicine storage, and a sink. There is appropriate provision within an adjacent sick bay for pupils who are unwell, including boarders who may be ill overnight. The dispensing of any medication for flexi-boarders is appropriately secure. Arrangements are sufficient to ensure the welfare of the proposed increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.21 The school meets the standards.
- 2.22 The school premises and accommodation are suitably maintained, including boarding accommodation and any issues addressed promptly. There is an ongoing programme of improvement. Arrangements are sufficient to ensure the welfare of the proposed increased number of pupils.

Premises and accommodation – acoustics [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 26]

- 2.23 The school meets the standard.
- 2.24 The teaching accommodation allows adequate sound insulation.

Premises and accommodation – lighting [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27]

- 2.25 The school meets the standard.
- 2.26 Both teaching and boarding accommodation have sufficient natural and artificial light. The site has suitable external lighting.

Premises and accommodation – water [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28; NMS 5]

- 2.27 The school meets the standard.
- 2.28 There is suitable provision for drinking water around the school site and sufficient supplies of hot and cold water to basins and showers, including in boarding areas.

Premises and accommodation – outdoor space [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 29]

- 2.29 The school meets the standard.
- 2.30 The school site has sufficient space for physical education and play. These facilities are suitable for increased numbers of pupils.

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

- 2.31 The school meets the standards.
- 2.32 The school provides suitable sleeping accommodation for pupils who board occasionally. Boarding accommodation has appropriate washing and common room facilities and is sufficiently comfortable. Arrangements are sufficient to ensure the welfare of the proposed increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.33 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]

- 2.34 The school meets the standards.
- 2.35 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. Management of boarding is effective.

- 2.36 The leadership has ensured that additional teaching rooms have been provided and extra staff appointed to manage the additional numbers of pupils requested.

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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 4.1 It is recommended that the school request for an increase in capacity to 365 is agreed. The school has appropriately increased its teaching and support staffing to cater for extra classes and pupils. Adaptions to the buildings have been appropriately made. The changes suitably increase accommodation for teaching and ensure adequate toilet and washing facilities for the increase in pupil numbers. All other school procedures and facilities have adequate capacity such that there is no impact on them because of the increase in pupil numbers. The school has made suitable preparations to accommodate the increase in numbers.

5. Summary of evidence

- 5.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, 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 and staff. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.