



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

St Christopher's The Hall School

October 2022

School's details

School	St Christopher's The Hall School			
DfE number	305/6010			
Registered charity number	307917			
Address	St Christopher's The Hall School 49 Bromley Road Beckenham BR3 5PA			
Telephone number	020 8650 2200			
Email address	mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk			
Headteacher	Mr Tom Carter			
Chair of governors	Ms Tracy Sell-Peters			
Age range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	228			
	EYFS	63	Juniors	165
Date of inspection	11 October 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Christopher’s The Hall School is a co-educational independent preparatory day school situated in a residential area of Beckenham, Kent. The school is a charitable trust with a board of directors, who act as the governing body and oversee the work of the school. The school comprises an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting for children aged 3 to 5 years and junior classes for pupils aged 5 to 11 years. The school has identified 13 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), all of whom receive additional specialist help. One pupil in the school has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 2 pupils, whose needs are met by their classroom teachers. The school’s previous inspection was a regulatory compliance and educational quality inspection in February 2022.

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 regulatory compliance and educational quality inspection on 8 to 11 February 2022. 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)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	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]

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 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school, including in the EYFS. The safeguarding policy and procedures are based on the most up-to-date statutory guidance including *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022*. The policy is further supported by appropriate guidance including an e-safety and remote learning policy. The safeguarding policy has been reviewed effectively with specific reference to the weaknesses highlighted in the previous inspection. It makes clear the local authority arrangements for managing allegations and that these must be followed when any allegation is received, in line with statutory guidance. These are understood by staff.
- 2.5 The safeguarding team includes a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and a deputy. Both have appropriate levels of safeguarding training, including with the local safeguarding partnership. The governor with responsibility for safeguarding has received suitable training for the position, maintains close contact with the DSL and offers appropriate support. A safeguarding committee, including senior staff and governors, meets regularly to monitor any concerns. The full governing body now maintains appropriate oversight of the safeguarding procedures, specifically those regarding contact with the local authority safeguarding partnership. They ensure appropriate recruitment procedures are implemented. All governors have received safeguarding training. They conduct a thorough annual review of the school's policy. They now keep appropriate records and minutes of meetings and any decisions taken.
- 2.6 Teaching and support staff are trained annually, including in KCSIE. Regular additional updates are provided throughout each term. New staff undergo suitable face to face and online induction training. In discussion, staff showed suitable understanding of the training they have received including context-specific training involving different scenarios. They state that they have easy access to all policies and procedures. These include an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable whistleblowing procedures, which they understand how to use.
- 2.7 There is prompt and effective liaison between the DSL and the relevant local authorities and children's services to secure advice regarding any concerns. There have been no incidents that have met the threshold for referral since the previous inspection. Pupils confirmed that they are listened to if they raise a concern. They receive a response and actions are taken where needed. They confirmed that they are taught how to stay safe online both at school and at home and that they would take any concerns to their teachers or to the DSLs. In discussion they reported feeling safe in school. Appropriate and detailed child protection records are held securely and in confidence. These confirm that suitable action is taken if a concern is raised.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.

The governor's understanding of risk assessment in relation to safeguarding has been reviewed and suitable training has been undertaken. The governors now actively oversee the provision of risk assessments with regard to pupils' welfare. Risk assessment for safeguarding is well understood by the senior management and the DSL and implemented effectively.

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.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The governors demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively to ensure the leadership and management of the school consistently meets the standards and actively promotes the wellbeing of the pupils. Since the previous inspection the school has implemented its action plan effectively. It has improved arrangements for the oversight of safeguarding, risk assessment and record keeping effectively. It now monitors the effectiveness of the procedures.

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 the 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 safeguarding governor. They talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Maureen Bradley

Reporting inspector

Mr Tony Halliwell

Assistant reporting inspector