



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Christ Church Cathedral School

November 2021

School's details

School	Christ Church Cathedral School			
DfE number	931/6060			
Registered charity number	1143423			
Address	Christ Church Cathedral School 3 Brewer Street Oxford Oxfordshire OX1 1QW			
Telephone number	01865 242561			
Email address	schooloffice@cccs.org.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Richard Murray			
Proprietor	Dean and Canons of Christ Church			
Age range	2 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	130			
	Day pupils	111	Boarders	19
	EYFS	24	Juniors	74
	Seniors	32		
Date of visit	25 November 2021			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Christ Church Cathedral School provides an education for male pupils, with boarding provision for choristers of Christ Church, Oxford. The nursery also admits female pupils up to the age of 4+. The dean and canons of Christ Church, responsible for the school's governance, have established a governing committee which comprises members of the cathedral chapter and advisory governors drawn from relevant professional fields. The school also provides choristers for Worcester College and Pembroke College chapels. The school has 11 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care plan. The school has 29 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in February 2020.

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 regulatory compliance inspection on 12–13 February 2020. 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 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 14	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 Arrangements are implemented effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including children in the EYFS, by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance. This includes ensuring a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a wide variety of people to whom they can turn to for support and many different ways of requesting 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 which are suitably detailed. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the school has sufficient filtering and monitoring procedures in place to ensure appropriate use of technology at all times.
- 2.5 The school liaises with local agencies where necessary and takes prompt action where concerns are raised. All staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed. Staff understand the different types of peer-on-peer abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND, and have a clear understanding of matters relating to sexual harassment. 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. Arrangements to handle allegations against any adult working in the school are suitable and understood by staff. Records show that the staff recruitment policy is fully implemented to ensure that all adults, including those with boarding responsibilities are checked in line with statutory requirements, including with regard to ensuring receipt by the school of at least two satisfactory references before work begins. Newly appointed staff to whom the requirement applies are checked for disqualification from childcare and current staff, as appropriate, are checked from time to time.
- 2.6 The school has ensured suitable arrangements are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain all safeguarding requirements. The proprietor ensures suitable oversight of safeguarding arrangements through the regular review of procedures and policies at governor meetings.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. The register suitably records when the Disclosure and Barring Service certificate was checked for any person working in regulated activity and that all the required checks were completed prior to employment or appointment as a proprietor.

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; NMS 13]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 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 met consistently, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

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. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the acting chair of governors. They talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.