

KIRKSTONE HOUSE SCHOOL

1-6 Main Street, Baston, Lincolnshire, PE6 9PA

19 JUNE 2018

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Kirkstone House School is a co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. The proprietor and her son are named as the school's principals and are responsible for the governance of the school. The head is responsible for the day to day management of the school. At the time of the visit there were 133 pupils in the school, 83 boys and 50 girls. The school is organised into 2 sections: the Lower School for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years and a senior school for those in Year 7 to Year 13. There are 86 pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 38 pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are no pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). The previous ISI inspection in November 2017 was a regulatory compliance inspection.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the regulatory compliance inspection on 08 November 2017. The focus of the visit was on: welfare, health and safety (safeguarding, health and safety, fire); suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors; premises and accommodation (toilets and changing, maintenance, lighting and water supply); and the leadership in and management of the school.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b); (EYFS 3.4-3.14)];
Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]**

The school meets the Regulations.

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. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

The school's safeguarding arrangements reflect the requirements of KCSIE and offer appropriate support for pupils' needs. A suitable recruitment policy, staff code of conduct and whistleblowing procedures are understood by staff. The school ensures that all staff, supply staff and the proprietors undergo all appropriate pre-appointment checks, include checking against the barred list and, where applicable, for those who may be prohibited from teaching or management. Safeguarding is correctly managed. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and, where appropriate, the deputy DSL gather information from staff, liaise appropriately with parents and local agencies, including advice from the LADO, and take prompt action if concerns are expressed about a child. The proprietor reviews the school's safeguarding policy and procedures annually. The head works closely with a

number of local authorities who place pupils at the school. Each authority carries out a review of the school's safeguarding arrangements before a placement is made. The DSL, who is also the head, submits an annual review of the school's safeguarding arrangements to the Lincolnshire local children's safeguarding board.

All staff, including the DSLs, are appropriately trained. Training records are maintained. New staff receive an appropriate induction. All staff have received suitable and regular update training. Staff understand how to respond to a disclosure and the importance of reporting concerns promptly. They know who they should report to and are aware that anyone can make a referral to children's services. Definitions of safeguarding in the policy are understood by staff.

The school has suitable procedures for reporting a disclosure of abuse or allegation against an adult working in the school. Staff understand that an allegation concerning the proprietor would be reported directly to the LADO. The school is aware of the requirement to report to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) or the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) when appropriate. Staff and pupils have a good understanding of e-safety and staying safe online. Pupils confirmed during interview that they receive appropriate support in areas such as peer abuse.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils - health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

The school meets the Regulation.

The school has an effective health and safety policy that reflects current health and safety laws. The school has a systematic approach to the testing of portable appliances. Since the previous inspection the health and safety arrangements in relation to the security of the site have been significantly strengthened. There is suitable perimeter fencing around the school field. Where it has not been possible to install permanent fencing, appropriate temporary measures are in place. All access points to the school have gates which are kept locked during the school day. There is suitable signage for visitors to the school and all appropriate routes are clearly indicated for both visitors and the emergency services. The school site, particularly the school field, is free from dangerous obstacles.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils - fire [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

The school meets the Regulation.

The school shows due regard to the Fire Safety Reform Order 2005 by ensuring that there is a suitable fire risk assessment and a fire prevention policy. An examination of records shows that fire drills are undertaken regularly with alarms being used to signal the evacuation of the buildings. Provision is made to ensure that all fire equipment, emergency routes, signs and notices are maintained to a satisfactory standard. Staff and visitors to the school are provided with appropriate fire safety information. Staff confirmed that they are suitably trained including in the use of fire extinguishers. The proprietor is the named fire officer and has the necessary training and experience to carry out this role.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18(3); 23(3)(b)]

The school meets the Regulations.

The school ensures that all required pre-appointment checks are carried out on all staff, supply staff and the proprietors. These include appropriate barred list checks and, where applicable, checks in relation to prohibition from teaching and from management. All necessary checks are recorded correctly on the single central register of appointments.

Premises and accommodation – toilets and changing accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23 (1) (c)]

The school does not meet the Regulations.

The school provides toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. There are separate facilities for boys and girls aged 8 or over. However, the facilities in the Lower School are unsuitable as they are not maintained to a safe and hygienic standard. Suitable changing accommodation is provided but there are no showers provided for pupils aged 11 years or over who receive physical education.

Premises and accommodation - maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25]

The school does not meet the Regulations.

Perimeter fencing and gates are suitably maintained so as to ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils. However, the buildings are not effectively maintained as flooring in many areas of the school is worn and is not secured to prevent potential trips. The school field contains holes, caused by animals, which could cause an accident. The school site is not free of all slip and trip hazards. Surfaces, particularly the senior school playground, are uneven and could cause slips or trips. The toilets in the Lower School are not maintained to a safe and hygienic standard to ensure the health and safety of pupils.

Premises and accommodation – lighting [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27(a) and (b)]

The school does not meet the Regulations.

The lighting in each room and other internal spaces is unsuitable for the activities taking place. Many of the windows throughout the school are covered in foliage which does not allow sufficient natural light into the rooms. The problem is compounded by the fact that many strip lights in teaching rooms were not working as regular checks are not made to replace broken tubes. Conversely, over-bright conditions are not controlled as in many teaching rooms there is no means to control daylight. Since the previous inspection some temporary external lighting has been installed. However, there are parts of the school site that are not lit adequately to ensure that people can enter and leave the school premises safely. Staff confirmed this during interview.

Premises and accommodation – water supply [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28 (1) (a), (b), (d) and (2)]

The school does not meet all of the Regulations.

Suitable drinking water is provided for the pupils and is clearly labelled as such. Drinking water is separate to all toilet facilities and is readily accessible. Toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water. However, the temperature of the hot water in the lower school toilet area poses a risk to scalding. The proprietor does not ensure that regular checks on water temperatures are undertaken to ensure that there is no risk to pupils.

Quality of Leadership in and management of schools [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(a) and (b)]

The school does not meet the Regulations.

Since the previous inspection, the school's leadership and management have addressed several areas to ensure compliance with the independent school standards. These include ensuring that all vehicular routes into the school are secured with gates when pupils are on the premises and that the perimeter fence is secure. The school has also ensured that suitable pre-appointment recruitment checks are in place along with ensuring that the school meets the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. However, proprietors do not have a suitable plan in place to ensure that all the independent school standards are met consistently. Proprietors do not demonstrate good skills or knowledge to ensure that standards are met. They do not suitably delegate responsibility to ensure that all remedial work is completed and therefore do not fulfil their responsibilities effectively in areas of health and safety and in the suitable maintenance of premises and accommodation, and hence do not promote the physical well-being of pupils.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation-toilets and changing accommodation, paragraph 23

- Ensure that suitable showering facilities are available for pupils aged 11 years or over. [paragraph 23(c)]

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation-maintenance, paragraph 25

- Ensure that all worn flooring is replaced and all floor coverings are securely fastened to eliminate the risks of slips and trips. [paragraph 25]
- Ensure that toilets in the Lower School are maintained to a safe and hygienic standard. [paragraph 25]
- Ensure the school field is free from potential trip hazards, such as holes made by animals. [paragraph 25]
- Ensure that all outdoor surfaces are even to reduce the risks of slips and trips. [paragraph 25]

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation-lighting, paragraph 27

- Ensure that there is sufficient natural light in every room by clearing away vegetation from in front of the windows and by ensuring that all overhead lighting is in full working order. [paragraph 27(a)]
- Ensure that there are suitable means to control daylight into the rooms. [paragraph 27(a)]
- Ensure that there is sufficient exterior lighting to allow people to enter and leave the premises safely. [paragraph 27(b)]

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation-water supply, paragraph 28

- Ensure that the temperature of the hot water in the Lower School taps does not pose a scalding risk. [paragraph 28(d)]

ISSR Part 8, Quality of leadership in and management of schools, paragraph 34

- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently. [paragraph 34(a)]
- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. [paragraph 34(b)]
- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities promote the physical well-being of pupils. [paragraph 34(c)]