



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Kirkstone House School

September 2019



School's details

School	Kirkstone House School			
DfE number	925/6017			
Address	Kirkstone House School 1-6 Main Street Baston Peterborough Lincolnshire PE6 9PA			
Telephone number	01778 560350			
Email address	info@kirkstonehouseschool.co.uk			
Headmistress	Mrs Corinne Jones			
Proprietor	Mr George Wyman			
Age range	3 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	122			
	EYFS	1	Lower School	18
	Upper school	100	Sixth Form	3
Date of visit	24 September 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Kirkstone House School is a co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of three and eighteen years. It is located in the village of Baston on the edge of Peterborough in Lincolnshire. The proprietors act as governors of the school. The school is organised into: a Lower School, for pupils between the ages of three and eleven; and an Upper School, for those who are older. The school has 77 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom 54 have an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in November 2017, followed by progress monitoring visits in June 2018 and March 2019.

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 progress monitoring visit on 11 March 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4 – 3.7 (safeguarding)	Remain Not Met
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; EYFS 3.54 (health and safety)	Remain Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet and changing accommodation)	Remains Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25; EYFS 3.54 (maintenance)	Remain Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27; EYFS 3.54 (lighting)	Remain Not Met
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28; EYFS 3.54 (water supply)	Remain Not Met
ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c), (1)(d) and (1)(h) (provision of information)	Met
ISSR Part 8 paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Remains Not Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4 to 3.7]

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 does not meet the standard and requirements.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are well managed and implemented by staff with designated responsibility for safeguarding (DSLs) and provide appropriate support for pupils' needs. All staff, including the DSLs, have appropriate levels of training, receive regular update training and show clear understanding of safeguarding, including early help strategies, and their responsibilities. Suitable arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff and include all required content. The school liaises effectively with local agencies and acts promptly if concern is expressed about a pupil. Appropriate safeguarding records are kept securely and regularly monitored by the school's designated safeguarding lead and local authorities.
- 2.5 However, the proprietor, who is nominated with safeguarding responsibility for the school's governance, has not undertaken appropriate safeguarding training and still does not demonstrate secure knowledge of safeguarding arrangements, including the appropriate process of referral to the local authority if concern is expressed about the head. Consequently, the proprietor is not able to ensure effective oversight of safeguarding, including policy implementation. The school's inadequate health and safety arrangements also pose a safeguarding risk to pupils.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; EYFS 3.54]

- 2.6 The school does not meet the standard or the requirement.
- 2.7 The school has a written health and safety policy that contains adequate guidance for staff on health and safety matters. However, this policy is not fully implemented. Staff are aware of their responsibilities to report any health and safety concerns and the leadership has introduced regular audits and safety tours. All concerns are passed on to the proprietor who does not ensure prompt or effective action on all recorded issues. There is no systematic procedure of proprietorial monitoring of health and safety issues. Since the previous progress monitoring visit, effective arrangements have been to ensure correct storage of hazardous chemicals.

Premises and accommodation – toilet and changing accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23]

- 2.8 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.9 Showers for boys and girls are provided in separate locations but in each instance are inadequate in number for the numbers of pupils receiving physical education and provide insufficient privacy and dignity.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25; EYFS 3.54]

- 2.10 The school does not meet the standard or the requirement.
- 2.11 Although some improvements have been made to areas of the school since the previous progress monitoring visit, such as new carpeting, defective lighting is still present in some areas, the pupils' changing rooms are not well maintained and contain trip hazards, because the floor covering is not securely fastened. There is no effective programme of proprietorial review, maintenance and improvement of the school's premises and accommodation.

Premises and accommodation – lighting [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27; EYFS 3.54]

- 2.12 The school does not meet the standard or the requirement.
- 2.13 The school has made further improvements to lighting in the teaching areas since the previous monitoring visit. However, some areas, including the library and girls' changing room, are still affected by lights not working correctly.

Premises and accommodation – water supply [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28; EYFS 3.54]

- 2.14 The school does not meet the standard or the requirement.
- 2.15 The proprietor regularly monitors hot water temperature in all areas of the school. However, the maximum temperature was found to be high enough to pose a scalding risk to users in some areas. Thus, an appropriate system of monitoring water temperature had not been established.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.17 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding, health and safety and inspection reports 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]

- 2.18 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.19 The school's leadership and management have successfully addressed one of the points on the action plan, and partially addressed others, since the previous progress monitoring visit. However, the proprietor still does not have a suitable action plan in place to ensure that all the independent school standards are met consistently. The proprietor does not demonstrate sufficient skills, knowledge and understanding to ensure that standards are met. Proprietorial responsibilities for safeguarding, health and safety and the provision of suitably maintained premises and accommodation have not been met and therefore the well-being of pupils is not promoted.

3. Regulatory action points

3.1 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 and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4

- Ensure the proprietor has the required knowledge, skills and expertise to oversee safeguarding arrangements and to make a referral to the local authority in the event of concerns being expressed about the head [paragraph 7(a) and(b); EYFS 3.4].

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 11; EYFS 3.54

- Ensure systematic monitoring of health and safety requirements is conducted and acted upon promptly and effectively [paragraph 11 and, for the same reason, paragraph 7(a) and(b); EYFS requirement 3.54].

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

- Ensure that suitable showering facilities are available for pupils aged 11 and over [paragraph 23 (1)(c)].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation – maintenance, paragraph 25; EYFS 3.54

- Ensure that all floor covering is securely fastened to eliminate the risk of slips and trips [paragraph 25; EYFS 3.54].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation – lighting, paragraph 27; EYFS 3.54

- Ensure that prompt action is taken to ensure that all overhead lighting is working correctly in all areas of the school, having regard to the nature of the activities which normally take place therein [paragraph 27 (a); EYFS 3.54].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation – water supply, paragraph 28; EYFS 3.54

- Ensure that a system of monitoring is put into place to ensure that water temperatures in all sections of the school do not pose a risk of scalding [paragraph 28 (1)(d); EYFS 3.54].

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

- Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, particularly the proprietor, demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34 (1)(a)].
- Ensure that that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, particularly the proprietor, fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently [paragraph 34 (1)(b)].

Ensure that all those with leadership and management responsibilities, particularly the proprietor, actively promote the well-being of pupils [paragraph 34 (1)(c)].

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head and other members of staff and met with the proprietor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.