



Material Change Inspection Report

St Edmund's School

September 2023

School's details

School	St Edmund's School			
DfE number	936/6053			
Registered charity number	278301			
Address	St Edmund's School Portsmouth Rd Hindhead Surrey GU26 6BH			
Telephone number	01428 604808			
Email address	schoolsecretary@saintedmunds.co.uk			
Headmaster	Dr Adam Walliker			
Chair of governors	Mrs Jackie Alliss			
Proprietor	St Edmunds School Trust Ltd			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	562			
	EYFS	47	Lower School Years 1 to 4	89
	Prep School Years 5 to 8	238	Senior School Years 9 to 11	188
Date of inspection	29 September 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Edmund’s School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school situated in Hindhead. The school is a charitable trust, overseen by a board of governors. There is one boarding house situated on the school site. However, the school has not provided any boarding since March 2020, so boarding was not considered as part of this inspection. The school has 155 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom five have an education, health and care plan. There are two pupils who speak English as an additional language. The previous inspection was a progress monitoring inspection in May 2022, following a regulatory compliance inspection together with an inspection of educational quality which took place in June 2021.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school’s proposal to increase capacity from 550 to 570. 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 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (safe recruitment of staff, supply staff and proprietor)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23–29 (premises and accommodation)	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 Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils, including those in the EYFS, are implemented effectively. This includes those relating to the Prevent duty. The school ensures a culture of listening to pupils and actively seeking their views. The school undertakes regular surveys to monitor pupils' wellbeing and enable pre-emptive action should the need arise. Pupils confirm that they have both a variety of people to whom they can turn for support and a variety of mechanisms by which to seek support which they are happy to use. Pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff, and by records of safeguarding. Pupils understand how to keep themselves and others safe, including when online. The school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to ensure pupils' online safety.
- 2.5 All staff, including those in positions of responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures. Interviews with leaders and staff from all parts of the school confirm they fully understand their different roles in safeguarding. In particular, staff understand different types of abuse, including child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment, and the particular vulnerability of pupils with SEND. Staff are ready to identify, report and investigate potential abuse. The safeguarding policy contains suitable guidance on reporting low-level concerns about adults working in the school. Staff understand and support this guidance. Records show that staff report any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate person in a timely fashion and use processes of self-referral if necessary. Senior leaders communicate concerns to relevant outside agencies effectively. They take prompt action where concerns are raised or incidents occur.
- 2.6 Suitable arrangements to handle allegations against adults working with pupils are implemented effectively. Safeguarding is managed effectively, and meticulous records are kept of any actions. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct. Arrangements for whistleblowing are suitable. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and a willingness to act appropriately should the need arise. Staff recruitment procedures follow all relevant guidance.
- 2.7 The proprietor ensures that appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures is maintained including through an effective annual review. There are sufficiently regular and effective reviews of safeguarding policy and practice. The proprietor is appropriately trained in safeguarding. The safeguarding team represents all parts of the school, including the EYFS, and is sufficient in number and expertise to support effective safeguarding for pupils within the school community. It is likely that the standard will continue to be met as the pupil numbers increase.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The proprietor and senior leaders ensure that a suitable written health and safety policy is implemented effectively. The policy and related materials provide staff with suitable guidance on health and safety matters. Appropriate records are kept of relevant health and safety checks which are undertaken effectively. Matters of health and safety are regularly reviewed by senior leaders with any recommendations noted leading to prompt remedial action. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Appropriate fire-risk assessments for the different school buildings have been undertaken by a suitably qualified person, and these have been appropriately updated when any changes to buildings and facilities have occurred. The school has implemented the required actions suitably and keeps the assessments under review. There are appropriately trained competent persons on site responsible for fire safety. A suitable number of staff are trained to support fire-evacuation procedures for the current pupils. Records show fire evacuations take place regularly, and pupils confirmed that they understand the correct procedures to follow. Records show appropriate installation and maintenance of fire-detection and firefighting equipment. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils and make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 Discussions with pupils and staff, together with observations around the school, confirm that appropriate numbers of staff are suitably deployed to ensure adequate supervision of pupils, including in the EYFS. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils. This makes it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk-assessment policy. Senior leaders and staff demonstrate an effective understanding of risk assessment. Effective assessments exist for all relevant aspects of the school premises and activities, including for the EYFS, and for the welfare of individual pupils as needed. The gradual increase in the number of pupils over time and the associated addition of, or changes in, facilities have been part of a long-term strategic plan for the school, which has been managed and implemented effectively. It is likely that regulations will continue to be met with the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standards.
- 2.17 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils and make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23–29]

- 2.18 The school meets the standards.
- 2.19 The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. It provides appropriate accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils and for the short-term care of sick pupils. The school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is ensured. In discussions, staff and pupils confirmed that, in their experience, all matters of maintenance are dealt with satisfactorily and swiftly. The acoustic conditions of the school facilities and internal and external lighting are suitable. Suitable drinking water facilities, clearly marked as such, are provided. The school provides suitable outdoor space for pupils' physical education and for their recreation, including outdoor education areas in the EYFS. Since the previous inspection, a new food technology building and dining hall have been added to accommodate the increase in the number of pupils. Additional outdoor sports facilities have been developed and more recreation space created. It is likely that the standards will continue to be met for the increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.20 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]

- 2.21 The school meets the standard.
- 2.22 The proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met. They actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. It is likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increase in pupil numbers.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its capacity from 550 to 570 pupils is granted. The proprietor has made suitable arrangements to ensure that effective health and safety, fire-safety and risk-assessment procedures are implemented. Detailed plans to develop the school's accommodation and facilities have been part of a long-term strategic plan to meet the needs of a gradual increase in pupil numbers over time. These plans have been suitably implemented to make it likely that the standards will continue to be met.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. She visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.