



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

St Edmund's School

May 2022

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	Mr Adam Walliker			
Chair of governors	Mrs Jackie Alliss			
Age range	2 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	525			
	Day pupils	525	Flexi boarders	0
	EYFS	55	Lower Prep	83
	Prep	215	Seniors	172
Date of visit	6 May 2022			

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, which has been used exclusively to provide accommodation for occasional themed boarding nights. However, the school has not provided any boarding since March 2020. The school has 148 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom three have an education, health and care plan. No pupil speaks English as an additional language. The previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection together with an inspection of educational quality which took place on 8 to 11 June 2021.

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 of June 2021. Additionally, the visit was requested to assess the school's proposal to increase the maximum number of pupils from 410 to 525. 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 and 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 and 14]

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 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively. Scrutiny of safeguarding records confirms that the school responds appropriately to safeguarding concerns in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures, including any relating to child-on-child abuse or sexual harassment or violence. The school offers suitable support to pupils affected. There are appropriate mechanisms for listening to children. Pupils who spoke to the inspector conveyed confidence in their ability to share any worries with staff and said that the school takes any such concerns seriously and acts when necessary. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when they are online. All leaders and staff, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs, are suitably trained. They implement an appropriate code of conduct and understand the different types of abuse and their safeguarding responsibilities. The school has appropriate procedures for managing allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers or the head, including reporting to external bodies when appropriate. Governors maintain an appropriate oversight of safeguarding through suitable termly reviews. The school acts in the best interests of the child. Since the previous inspection the school has ensured that all safeguarding incidents that meet the advised thresholds have been referred to the local safeguarding authorities in a timely manner. The school implements effective recruitment procedures. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that suitable references are sought prior to staff starting to work at the school.

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

- 2.5 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]

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 Governors and school leaders have successfully met the actions required as a result of the previous inspection. As a result, the school ensures that leadership and management acquire the good skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the standards are met consistently, and pupils' well-being is actively promoted.

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. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 4.1 The school has sufficient staff and suitable accommodation to cater for 525 pupils. This increase has already occurred in practice. Detailed evidence from the inspection records of June 2021 confirms that suitable development of premises and accommodation had been undertaken at that point. Further informal observation of the site on this visit confirmed that the outcomes of this development remain suitable. Therefore, it is recommended that the school's proposal to increase the maximum number of pupils from 410 to 525 be approved.

5. Summary of evidence

- 5.1 The inspector held discussions with the headmaster, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. He talked with groups of pupils, scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies and briefly viewed areas of the school site relevant to the material change request.