



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Wisbech Grammar School

December 2022

School's details

School	Wisbech Grammar School		
DfE number	873/6013		
Address	Wisbech Grammar School Chapel Road Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 1RH		
Telephone number	01945 583631		
Email address	office@wisbechgrammar.com		
Head	Mr Barnaby Rimmer		
Proprietor	Mr Jay Liu		
Age range	3 to 19		
Number of pupils on roll	562		
	Day pupils	542	Boarders 20
	EYFS	20	Prep 146
	Seniors	297	Sixth Form 99
Date of inspection	9 December 2022		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Wisbech Grammar School is an independent day and boarding school located in the centre of the town of Wisbech. The school consists of an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting for children aged 3 to 5; a prep school for pupils aged 5 to 11; a senior school for pupils aged 11 to 16; and a sixth form. The school is owned by a single proprietor, who took over the school in February 2020. It is overseen by a group of directors on his behalf, supported by an advisory committee. The school has identified 131 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 21 pupils. The school's previous inspection was an inspection of regulatory compliance with educational quality in May 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the inspection of regulatory compliance with educational quality on 25–26 May 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying); NMS 15	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8]

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 arrangements effectively to safeguard the welfare of pupils, including boarders and those in the EYFS.
- 2.5 Pupils of all ages confirmed in discussion that they have opportunities to talk to trusted adults within the school community. They are confident that the school responds appropriately and take suitable action if necessary when they raise concerns. This is confirmed by records of safeguarding incidents which are suitable and confidentially maintained.
- 2.6 Senior leaders ensure that the school acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. They maintain effective links with local safeguarding partners. Staff showed effective understanding of their code of conduct. All staff, including those with particular safeguarding responsibilities, are trained so that they can discharge their responsibilities effectively. During interview, staff confirmed that they are confident with the school's whistleblowing procedures. Those who maintain oversight of safeguarding are effectively trained. They exercise effective oversight over safeguarding policy and implementation. They require appropriate recruitment procedures for all new staff. These are now implemented effectively, including with regard to obtaining references for all new staff, including support staff.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10; NMS 15]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school has a suitable anti-bullying policy. School leaders ensure that it is implemented effectively so that bullying incidents are dealt with promptly. They assess any such incidents effectively to establish whether they have reached the threshold to be considered a safeguarding matter. Local safeguarding partners confirm that the school seeks advice appropriately where there is doubt. The school keeps a detailed record of all bullying concerns. This includes correspondence with parents, the school's actions, and any learning points which may arise from an individual incident. The school allocates specific responsibility, in the aftermath of any incident, to individual members of staff in order to support all those pupils involved. Senior leaders identify areas where bullying might take place, including in the context of team games. Staff are suitably vigilant when supervising pupils outside lessons.

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 2]

2.10 The school meets the standards.

2.11 The school's proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers have appropriate knowledge and skills to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils by ensuring the other standards are met. The school's action plan has been implemented effectively. School leaders now take suitable steps to ensure that recruitment of those who are to work with children is in line with statutory guidance.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mr Bill Burn

Reporting inspector