



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Woldingham School

June 2023

School's details

School	Woldingham School		
DfE number	936/6111		
Registered charity number	1125376		
Address	Woldingham School Marden Park Woldingham Caterham Surrey CR3 7YA		
Telephone number	01883 349431		
Email address	info@woldinghamschool.co.uk		
Head	Dr James Whitehead		
Chair of governors	Mr Robert Parkinson		
Proprietor	Directors of Woldingham School		
Age range	11 to 19		
Number of pupils on roll	609		
	Day pupils	398	Boarders 211
	Seniors	448	Sixth Form 161
Date of inspection	9 June 2023		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Woldingham School is a Roman Catholic independent co-educational day and boarding school for female pupils. Founded in 1842, the school transferred to its present 700-acre site in Surrey in 1946. The school is part of the international network of Sacred Heart Schools. It is a charitable trust with its own lay board of governors. Boarders are accommodated in four houses on the school site. There are 40 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 66 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection, which took place in January 2023.

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 regulatory compliance inspection on 25 to 26 January 2023. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8 and 19	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 9	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 and safeguarding of boarders [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8 and 19]

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 policy effectively to safeguard the welfare of pupils, including boarders. It acts in the best interests of the child, including by encouraging pupils to share any concerns and acting swiftly to support pupils when they do. This is confirmed by records of safeguarding. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSL provide sufficient coverage for their role, including in boarding. Safeguarding records demonstrate that the school follows locally agreed interagency procedures should safeguarding concerns arise. The school has appropriate arrangements for responding to child-on-child abuse, including sexual harassment or sexual violence, and supports any pupils affected suitably.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), deputy DSLs, including the head, staff and governors are suitably trained. Staff understand and implement appropriate procedures should there be any safeguarding concerns raised about personnel working with children, including those that are at a low level. They understand the different types of abuse, their safeguarding responsibilities and the expectations that the school has of their conduct. The school liaises suitably with external agencies, including the LADO if appropriate. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. It ensures that appropriate monitoring and filtering of internet use is in place. Governors maintain an effective overview of safeguarding throughout the year.
- 2.6 The school implements effective safer recruitment procedures. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that checks of the list of those prohibited from teaching are undertaken before staff begin working at the school. An enhanced criminal record certificate with a check of the Children's Barred List is now obtained in respect of all members of staff households who are aged 16 or over and not on the roll of, nor employed by, the school, who live on the same premises as boarders. In addition, the school now ensures that there is a written agreement between the school and any person aged 16 and over not employed by the school but living in the same premises as children.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 9]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school implements a suitable written risk assessment policy and an additional risk assessment policy for pupil welfare effectively, including in boarding. Sample risk assessments seen, including those relating to boarding, demonstrate appropriate and thorough identification of risks and suitable control measures to reduce these. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that it identifies the risks to pupils associated with those living on the site and takes appropriate action to reduce such risks.

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 Leaders and governors have successfully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous inspection. As a result, the proprietor ensures that those with leadership and management responsibilities now demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards and boarding standards are met consistently, and that they actively promote the wellbeing of all pupils, including boarders.

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 no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors and a safeguarding governor. They talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Steven Popper

Reporting inspector

Mr Jonathan Dunn

Assistant reporting inspector