



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Stratford Preparatory School

October 2019



School's details

School	Stratford Preparatory School			
DfE number	937/6094			
Address	Stratford Preparatory School Church House Old Town Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG			
Telephone number	01789 297993			
Email address	secretary@stratfordprep.co.uk			
Principal	Mrs Catherine Quinn			
Proprietor	Mrs Catherine Quinn			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	75			
	EYFS	14	Juniors	61
Date of visit	04 October 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Stratford Preparatory School is a co-educational school for pupils aged from two to eleven. It was founded in 1989 by the current proprietor. The school is situated in the Old Town district of Stratford-upon-Avon in a former rectory, with later additions to the site providing further accommodation. The school also has use of a near-by field for games. Since the previous inspection, the proprietor has taken over the role of principal. The school has 18 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom 17 receive additional support for their individual needs with the remainder supported within the classroom. The school has no pupils with education, health and care plans. One pupil speaks English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was an additional inspection in December 2018.

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 additional inspection on 10th December 2018. In addition, the DfE required inspectors to report on the effectiveness of the school's arrangements for behaviour management and the prevention of bullying.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 31 (1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraphs 33 (manner in which complaints are handled)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of 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 requirement.
- 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.
- 2.3 Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured the safeguarding policy makes it sufficiently clear that staff may make a direct referral to the local authority.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.4 The school meets the standard.
- 2.5 The school implements the safeguarding policy effectively and in line with current statutory guidance. A suitable staff code of conduct is provided and referenced at staff training sessions. Staff are familiar with its contents and conscientious in their implementation. The school has appropriate whistleblowing procedures. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) acts on and refers any early signs of abuse or neglect, keeps detailed records, listens to the views of pupils, ensures pupils receive early help to reduce risks and liaises appropriately with parents in relation to safeguarding concerns.
- 2.6 Staff place paramount importance on the best interests of the child. The school also liaises effectively with local agencies and takes appropriately prompt action as required if concerns are expressed about a child. The school ensures that staff understand that anyone can make a referral. Concerns are promptly and appropriately reported and acted upon. Regular discussions take place, of which records are kept, concerning any behaviour or bullying issues that arise, although these are rare. The school's policy for reporting any disclosure of abuse or allegation against an adult is robust and well understood by staff and pupils. The DSL and their deputy have sufficient status and independence within the school to enable them to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. Child protection records are detailed and kept confidentially.
- 2.7 The proprietor carries out and records a rigorous annual review of the safeguarding policy and the effectiveness of its implementation. The DSL and deputy receive inter-agency safeguarding training from the local authority at the appropriate level and intervals. All other staff receive regular safeguarding training and informal updates in line with local requirements. They have a well-informed knowledge of safeguarding procedures and a clear commitment to recording and reporting concerns to the DSL promptly. New staff undertake induction training which meets requirements. The school ensures appropriate supervision of pupils, as a result of which pupils are confident that there is always someone available, including all the teachers and the principal, to listen to them if they have a concern or worry. Pupils feel that everyone at the school is kind. They recognise that the generally good behaviour at school is supported by appropriate procedures, rewards and sanctions. They are aware of positive changes that have come about through issues raised at the school council. Pupils feel safe, and well cared for by the staff.
- 2.8 Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured all those holding responsibility as designated safeguarding leads are suitably trained and accredited for the role. The school also ensures that any potentially serious safeguarding issue is discussed with the local authority designated officer and that any advice received is acted on.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils - Behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school has a written behaviour policy which, amongst other matters, sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils' misbehaviour. It is implemented effectively and a record is kept of any sanctions imposed.
- 2.11 Pupils of all ages get on well with each other and are justified in feeling that behaviour in general is very good. They understand the sanctions that are imposed in any cases of misbehaviour. Pupils are confident that any bad behaviour is effectively addressed by staff. Any behaviour issues raised by parents are followed up and investigated thoroughly. Evidence during the inspection indicated that pupils were happy and relaxed, playing energetically in the playground and well supervised by staff.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils - Bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school implements an effective anti-bullying strategy effectively and prevents bullying in so far as reasonably practicable. Pupils are aware of the different forms that bullying might take. They know what to do if they feel that any pupil is being bullied and are confident that any bullying is stopped effectively by the actions of the teachers. Pupils appreciate regular contact with the principal, including in class when they have the opportunity to discuss any worries they may have. They feel that there is hardly ever any bullying in the school.
- 2.14 Staff are aware of the needs of all pupils including those with special needs. They are kept informed as appropriate of any issues that arise which are also recorded suitably to enable any patterns to be identified. On the rare occasions that any bullying occurs, the school responds appropriately and effectively, and maintains appropriate records.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the requirement for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33 (f) and (j)]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school handles complaints promptly and appropriately in accordance with its complaints policy. Detailed records are kept in line with statutory requirements. During the inspection, the files relating to complaints that had been made since the previous inspection were scrutinised by inspectors. The written complaints procedure is available to parents and published procedures are appropriately followed.
- 2.18 Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that the complaints procedure is correctly implemented through the provision of an appropriately constituted panel hearing, if required; and that a written record is kept of all complaints, whether they are resolved following a formal procedure or proceed to a panel hearing, and of any action taken by the school as a result of those complaints.

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

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 The school has taken effective action to ensure that the issues found at the previous inspection have been rectified through successful implementation of its action plan. The proprietor ensures that those holding leadership and management responsibilities in the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently and actively promote the well-being of pupils.

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 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4 Summary of evidence

- 4.1 Inspectors held discussions with the proprietor and principal, senior leaders and other members of staff. They visited different areas of the school, and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.