



Material Change Inspection Report

Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham

November 2023

School's details

School	Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham			
DfE number	921/6041			
Address	Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham Beatrice Avenue Whippingham Isle of Wight PO32 6LP			
Telephone number	01983 861222			
Email address	mail@prioryschool.org.uk			
Principal	Mr David EJJ Lloyd			
Proprietor	Mr Edmund Matyjaszek			
Age range	4 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	184			
	EYFS	3	Juniors	49
	Seniors	127	Sixth Form	5
Date of inspection	22 November 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham is an independent co-educational, non-denominational day school with a Christian ethos. It was founded in 1993 and is situated on the Isle of Wight. The school includes an early years setting. The school is overseen by a single proprietor, supported by an advisory committee. The current principal took up his position in January 2023. Twenty-seven pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Three pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection, which took place in February 2023.

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 the maximum number of pupils from 178 to 256. 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 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	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 The school implements its safeguarding policy and procedures effectively. Leaders ensure that the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs receive training appropriate to their role. All staff receive suitable safeguarding training at induction and each year. Staff implement a suitable code of conduct effectively. They understand the different types of abuse and what their responsibilities are should any safeguarding concern arise. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Suitable filtering and monitoring of internet usage is in place. The school encourages pupils to share any worries that they might have and responds to these effectively. This is confirmed in safeguarding records. The school acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures whenever any safeguarding concerns arise, including through liaising appropriately with local safeguarding partners. The school has suitable arrangements to deal with any concerns about child-on-child abuse and provides effective support to pupils affected. The school also has appropriate procedures for responding to any allegations against staff, including low level concerns. The school implements appropriate safer recruitment procedures in line with current statutory guidance. The proprietor is suitably trained in safeguarding monitors, the school's safeguarding policy and procedures effectively. The DSL and deputy DSLs provide sufficient cover for their role, including in the early years and sixth form. They have sufficient capacity to continue to do so once the proposed increase in pupil numbers takes place.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school maintains a suitable standard of health and safety. Leaders ensure that all required checks and maintenance are carried out methodically. The proprietor maintains an effective oversight of health and safety arrangements. These arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Leaders ensure that a suitable fire risk assessment is maintained and updated regularly and that the school carries out any necessary actions identified. Staff, including fire marshals, receive appropriate fire safety training. The school carries out fire evacuation drills at least termly and often half-termly. Leaders ensure that fire safety equipment is checked and maintained effectively. Fire safety arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Leaders deploy staff so that pupils are appropriately and sufficiently supervised before, after and during the school day, including in early years. The school employs sufficient staff to maintain appropriate supervision levels once the proposed increase in the number of pupils takes place.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school implements a suitable risk assessment policy effectively. Risk assessments seen feature clear identification of potential risks and appropriate measures to mitigate against these. Risk assessments take into account pupils' needs effectively. The school's risk assessment procedures are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school undertakes safer recruitment checks on staff and proprietors effectively, and as required by current statutory guidance. These checks are recorded appropriately in a single central record of appointments.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 The premises and accommodation provide sufficient suitable toilet, washing, showering and medical facilities to cater for the proposed increase in the number of pupils. Leaders ensure that the site is well maintained. Appropriate internal and external lighting is in place. The school's provision of water is suitable, and sources of drinking water are clearly labelled as such. The acoustic conditions of each room are appropriate. The premises include ample outdoor space and sufficient teaching and dining areas to cater for 256 pupils.

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

- 2.17 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]

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. Leaders have planned and prepared effectively for the proposed material change.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal, to increase the maximum number of pupils from 178 to 256, be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the principal, 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.