



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Belgrave School

May 2023

School's details

School	Belgrave School			
DfE number	801/6019			
Address	Belgrave School The Willows 159 Four Acres Withywood Bristol Somerset BS13 8RA			
Telephone number	0117 9743133			
Email address	info@belgrave-school.org			
Headteacher	Mrs Lynette Brown			
Proprietor	Mrs Pat Jones			
Age range	6 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	52			
	Juniors	9	Seniors	43
Date of inspection	4 May 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Belgrave School is an independent coeducational day school providing for pupils with dyslexia and related learning difficulties, 49 of whom have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are no pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). It is owned and overseen by a sole proprietor. The school opened in 1993 and moved to its present site in 2020. It is comprised of five mixed age classes organised in two sections: the junior school, for pupils aged six to eleven years; and the senior school, for pupils aged eleven to sixteen years. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 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 focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupils' performance)	Met
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)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessments)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietor)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place. Detailed individual records are kept regarding pupils' performance, including as relating to targets from individual education plans. Clear benchmarks are used throughout the school for monitoring attainment and progress, as is the tracking of pupil progress against targets. The collection of termly summative assessment data for core subjects and other curriculum areas has been implemented successfully. This means that there is a clear overview of performance across the school in all subjects. Data collected so far, indicate that academic expectations, against which progress is measured individually, are appropriate for all pupils, including for those taking GCSEs and other examinations. This ensures that they are sufficiently challenged. The proprietor and headteacher together monitor pupils' academic outcomes closely. They recognise that the revised framework for pupils' performance requires consistent oversight to ensure it remains effective and they provide this.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.3 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.4 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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for the needs of pupils.
- 2.7 Safeguarding procedures are implemented to safeguard children at risk and those in need. Leadership, staff and the proprietor show effective and confident understanding of their responsibilities, including with regard to child-on-child abuse and any such abuse linked to those with protected characteristics. This includes those with particular learning needs. Staff demonstrate appropriate awareness of the staff code of conduct, whistleblowing policy and safeguarding procedures. They have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting issues. Staff are aware of whom to go to if they have a concern or receive a disclosure. They understand that they can make a direct referral to children's services if necessary. They take appropriate action when required. The safeguarding policy gives contact details for local safeguarding partners.
- 2.8 The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse and has been reviewed effectively in line with both the latest statutory guidance and advice from local safeguarding partners. All behavioural issues and pastoral concerns are identified as safeguarding concerns when appropriate, including child-on-child abuse, and these are managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy and statutory requirements. Discussion with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) for the school confirmed that pupils receive help to address risks and prevent issues escalating. The DSL acts on and refers the early signs of risk or need, monitors any potential for radicalisation, and ensures the school listens to the views of individual pupils as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and takes action where required. This is confirmed in written evidence from safeguarding records.

Effective and regular communication is maintained with parents. Pupils say they feel safe in school, and that they have trusted adults to whom they can talk if they have concerns. They show an understanding of what they have been taught, including in relation to e-safety. Monitoring and filtering of technology is effective.

- 2.9 Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are outlined within the safeguarding policy and detailed in a separate recruitment policy. Staff responsible for recruitment now show a suitable understanding of the procedures. All relevant recruitment checks are now carried out on all staff before commencement of employment. In particular, the school now checks a member of staff's identity and right to work in the United Kingdom, criminal records check, barred list check, and makes checks against the lists of those prohibited from teaching and/or management. Staff records and files now contain sufficient, accurate information to evidence the required recruitment checks, including those required for the proprietor and approved by the secretary of state.
- 2.10 The training for those with specific safeguarding responsibilities is in line with local requirements and statutory advice and is up to date. Training in safeguarding for the proprietor, teaching and non-teaching staff is of sufficient quality and frequency.
- 2.11 Suitable arrangements for handling allegations against staff, senior leaders and proprietor, and potential misconduct are included in safeguarding procedures; they include seeking immediate advice from the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO). The school understands its role in reporting any person to relevant regulatory bodies if circumstances require it.
- 2.12 The school ensures that low-level safeguarding concerns about adults working in the school are managed and recorded appropriately and that it liaises with external agencies without delay in line with statutory and safeguarding partnership requirements.
- 2.13 The school ensures that safeguarding records are kept in a form which provides an overview of safeguarding and enables all concerns and patterns to be identified. These records form part of effective oversight of safeguarding by the proprietor.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. A competent and suitably trained external contractor has been engaged in order to oversee health and safety procedures. Records show that testing of electrical, water and other utilities is regularly undertaken, in particular regarding suitable legionella risk assessment. COSHH procedures are in place. Health and safety training is in place for staff. Those staff driving the school's minibus are suitably trained.
- 2.16 Responsibilities for senior staff and other staff are clearly delineated, as detailed in the health and safety policy. The proprietor monitors health and safety, and consults with employees on health and safety matters, effectively. The proprietor has introduced termly, systematic records to ensure trends are identified and steps taken to mitigate recurrence of any health and safety issues.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 The school has a fire risk (prevention) policy which includes the elimination or reduction of risks from dangerous substances. A competent and suitably trained external contractor has been engaged in order to oversee fire prevention and procedures. Actions required by the most recent fire risk

assessment have been completed fully and satisfactorily. Fire procedures are understood by, and training provided for, staff. Emergency exit routes and fire exit doors are systematically checked. Termly fire drills and a weekly test of the fire alarm system are carried out and recorded. Pupils know what to do in the event of a fire. Visitors are provided with fire safety information on arrival.

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

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 The school ensures that appropriate staff to pupil ratios are maintained when off-site and these are in line with suitable risk assessment. Planning for off-site activities takes into account the needs of the pupils, including those who may require intensive support.

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

- 2.21 The school meets the standard.
- 2.22 The school's risk assessment policy clearly describes appropriate lines of responsibility and the approaches to be taken to identify and mitigate risk. Risk assessment now includes effective reference to, and associated actions, regarding pupil supervision, storage of hazardous substances, the premises, pupil welfare and safeguarding matters, and maternity considerations. There is an effective culture of assessing risk to pupils in any decision taken, in particular regarding pupils about whom behavioural or safeguarding concerns have been identified. Risk assessment takes due account of the particular learning needs of the school's pupils. There are appropriate assessments of risks for in-school activities, and for visits out of school. These are suitably detailed and appropriate action is taken to mitigate risks identified.
- 2.23 The school ensures the effective and strategic implementation of its risk assessment policy. It ensures that staff are suitably trained and that actions are taken to reduce any risks identified.

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

- 2.24 The school meets the standards.
- 2.25 Those responsible for managing the school now have the support, training, knowledge and skills to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils.
- 2.26 All the required checks on staff are carried out and completed before they take up their posts.
- 2.27 The school maintains correctly an accurate single central register of appointments which includes the dates on which all checks have been completed.

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

- 2.28 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]

- 2.29 The school meets the standard.
- 2.30 The proprietor and senior leaders have the support, training, knowledge and skills required to fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and

the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. The school has fully implemented its action plan and the proprietor monitors compliance with regulations appropriately. The proprietor is currently establishing an advisory board to support the governance of the school.

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 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 proprietor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Andrew Farren

Reporting inspector

Mr Christopher Emmott

Assistant reporting inspector