



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

King Edward's School Witley

February 2020



School's details

School name	King Edward's School, Witley		
DfE number	936/6103		
Registered charity number	311997		
Address	King Edward's School Petworth Road Whitley Godalming Surrey GU8 5SG		
Telephone number	01428 686700		
Email address	info@kesw.org		
Head	Mrs Joanna Wright		
Chair of governors	Mrs Justine Voisin		
Age range	11 to 18		
Number of pupils on roll	396		
	Day pupils	232	Boarders 164
	Lower School	74	Middle School 216
	Upper School	106	
Date of visit	14 February 2020		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 King Edward's School is a co-educational boarding and day school providing education for pupils aged from 11 to 18 years. Originally founded in 1553 in the City of London, the school moved to its current location in 1867. The school is a charitable trust, governed by a board of governors known as the Court of Bridewell. It has seven boarding houses, all on the main school site. The school has 109 pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, none of whom has an education, health and care plan. Also, 109 pupils speak English as an additional language.

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 1 July 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 and 8 (safeguarding); NMS 11	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]

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 Safeguarding procedures are implemented to safeguard children at risk and those in need, including those who board. Safeguarding records and discussions with senior leaders show that there is good understanding of local thresholds, and that procedures are effective. Referrals or advice are sought promptly from local safeguarding partners. External partners are pursued tenaciously for responses and decisions. The training for the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs is appropriate and in line with the requirements of the local safeguarding board (LCSB).
- 2.5 The school's safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse. It provides appropriate guidance regarding possible abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil, including linking such abuse to bullying. Records show that recent training of staff has focused on peer on peer abuse, including sexual harassment, and staff interviewed demonstrated a thorough knowledge of their roles in identifying, reporting and supporting pupils at risk. Staff feel they are listened to, or would be, if they expressed a concern to senior leaders about action by any other member of staff that they perceive to be at odds with the safeguarding training they have received. The safeguarding training undertaken by senior leaders and governors has ensured that they will monitor any other staff training in the school effectively and take any necessary action to ensure that no apparently conflicting messages are received by staff, without challenge by senior managers.
- 2.6 Discussion with the DSL and other staff confirmed the records that show pupils receive help to address risks and prevent issues escalating. Medical and boarding staff work closely with the DSLs to act on and refer the early signs of risk or need. Structures recently introduced show the school's strong emphasis on ensuring the mental well-being of pupils. Records show that the school listens to the views of individual pupils as required by Keeping Children Safe in Education, and that it liaises with parents in line with the LCSB's written procedures. Pupils receive guidance on staying safe including on-line; monitoring and filtering of technology is effective. Records show that the school takes immediate action when potential risks are identified.
- 2.7 The safeguarding policy gives contact details for the policy to work in practice. Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures and if potential incidents arise the school seeks immediate advice from the local authority designated officer (LADO). The school and governors understand their role in reporting any person whose services are no longer used where referral criteria are met to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA).

- 2.8 The annual review of safeguarding is appropriate. There has been regular contact between those with safeguarding responsibilities and both the designated governor and chair of governors (the Treasurer) to liaise regarding safeguarding. Documentation shows that the governors have conducted their own reviews of the handling of long-standing cases and supported these by commissioning additional opinions from independent and well qualified professionals. In doing so the school has been mindful of the statutory guidance in dealing with allegations and their aftermath. Policies on areas linked to the welfare of pupils, for example the staff code of conduct and pupils' access to alcohol, have been reviewed and are clearly understood and supported by all.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 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 13.3,13.4.13.5]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school's governance and current leadership have adopted a rigorous approach to the action points from the previous visit and have comprehensively implemented the school's action plan. Hence the school's leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role, consistently fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the standards are met, and actively promote the wellbeing of pupils, including boarders.

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, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of teaching, non-teaching and boarding staff, and met with the chair of governors (Treasurer). They talked with groups of pupils, including boarders. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.