

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

School name	Sunninghill Preparatory School			
DfE number	835/6029			
Registered charity number	1024774			
Early years registration number	EY444085			
Address	South Court South Walks Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1EB			
Headmaster	Mr John Thorpe			
Proprietor	Sunninghill Preparatory School Ltd			
Number of pupils on roll	164			
	Boys	80	Girls	84
	EYFS	38	Juniors	57
	Seniors	69		
Date of visit	23 January 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

1.1 Sunninghill Preparatory School is an independent day school for boys and girls aged from 0 to 13. It was founded in 1939 and moved to its current site in 1997. It is owned by a charitable trust and is governed by a board of trustees. The school comprises four sections: Fledglings, for children aged from nine months to two years and nine months; the Nursery and Reception, for children aged from two years and nine months to five years; the Junior Prep, for pupils aged from five to nine years; and the Prep, for pupils aged from nine to thirteen years. The school has 19 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, none of whom have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous regulatory compliance inspection took place on 16 to 17 May 2018. Since the previous inspection a new chair of governors has been appointed.

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 regulatory compliance inspection on 16 to 17 May 2018.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7(a) and (b); EYFS 3.7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34(1)(a) and (b) (quality of leadership in and management of schools)	Met
EYFS 3.9 and 3.12 (suitable people)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7(a) and (b); EYFS 3.7]

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, including in the registered Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It has regard to the most recent statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 (KCSIE) (September 2018). The policy identifies a governor with responsibility for the oversight of safeguarding, and is further supported by suitable guidance covering managing disclosure and listening to children, the safe recruitment of staff, whistleblowing, and a staff code of conduct.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standards.
- 2.4 The school implements the safeguarding policy effectively and in line with current statutory guidance. Safeguarding procedures are well managed and follow local authority guidance, ensuring the welfare of pupils. Appropriate procedures are in place to support pupils in need. There are suitable arrangements for listening to pupils, and child protection records are held securely with the required confidentiality. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is responsible for safeguarding in the EYFS. The DSL and deputy DSLs have recent safeguarding training, including inter-agency training, approved by the local authority. All other staff receive regular and appropriate safeguarding training, which includes the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. They have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and are aware of how to refer concerns. They understand that anyone can make a referral to the children's services. New staff have undergone suitable induction training. All staff have received a copy of KCSIE Part 1 and Annex A. Staff report that they receive informal updates from the DSL and additional checking to confirm their understanding of procedures. Staff understand proper procedures for reporting any allegations about staff that may come to their attention. Leaders understand the need to report any allegations against staff to the Disqualification and Barring Service and/or Teaching Regulation Agency when appropriate. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that all pupils are safeguarded by obtaining references for all staff, including in the registered EYFS, before they commence employment.

Suitable people [EYFS 3.9 and 3.12]

- 2.5 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.6 The school ensures that all staff who come into contact with children have undergone suitable vetting processes. The school accurately records information about staff qualifications and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed (including the criminal records check reference number, the date a check was obtained and details of who obtained it). In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that its vetting processes include obtaining satisfactory references for all staff who come into contact with children in advance of them taking up their post.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

2.7 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]

2.8 The school meets the standards.

2.9 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, including those relating to safeguarding, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. In particular, governors and school leaders have fully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous regulatory compliance inspection. They have ensured that all pupils are safeguarded by obtaining references for all staff, including in the registered EYFS, before they commence employment.

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

Written materials

- Safeguarding policy
- Arrangements to educate pupils about safeguarding, including e-safety
- Records of staff training with particular reference to safeguarding, bullying and the promotion of good behaviour
- Governors' minutes with regard to the annual review of the safeguarding policy and procedures
- Code of conduct for staff
- Staff recruitment policy
- Single central register of appointments and selected staff files

Meetings with school personnel

- Introductory meeting with head – to discuss arrangements for the day and to provide initial thoughts on areas specified as focus for the visit
- Meeting with the DSL – to discuss implementation of safeguarding policy, training and induction of new staff
- Meeting with the member of staff responsible for carrying out staff recruitment checks – to review school's recruitment procedures, to scrutinise single central register of appointments and to check staff recruitment files
- Meeting with four teaching and non-teaching staff, including from the registered EYFS, selected by the inspectors
- Telephone discussion with the chair of governors
- Review meeting with the headmaster and bursar – to review the outcomes of the visit

Activities on site

- Further scrutiny and evaluation of implementation of policies and documentation (as detailed above)
- Meeting with six pupils, chosen by inspectors
- Meeting of inspectors