

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

School name	Highclare School			
DfE number	330/6060			
Registered charity number	528940			
Early years registration number	EY287857			
Address	Highclare School 10 Sutton Road Erdington Birmingham B23 6QL			
Headmaster	Dr Richard Luker			
Chair of governors	Mrs Louise Flowith			
Number of pupils on roll	536			
	Boys	280	Girls	256
	EYFS	111	Juniors	218
	Seniors	190	Sixth Form	17
Date of visit	14 May 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Highclare School is an independent day school for boys and girls aged from two to eighteen years, operating across three sites in Birmingham. It is a registered charity overseen by a board of governors. Sixty-one pupils require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, five of whom have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. Twenty-five pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous regulatory compliance inspection took place on 3 to 4 October 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 regulatory compliance inspection on 3 to 4 October 2018.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.6 (child protection)	Met
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership in and management of schools)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.6]

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 and requirement.
- 2.4 The school has taken pro-active and effective measures to meet the action point from the previous inspection. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs have instigated a thorough training programme for all staff that informs them of how to report concerns and why it is important to do so immediately. New signage across the school communicates key messages about the identities of the safeguarding leads and how to report concerns to them. In discussion, staff from across the whole school demonstrated a very confident understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, particularly how to respond to, record and report concerns, including any that might arise about staff or the headmaster. Safeguarding records show that staff have reported concerns swiftly since the previous inspection.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that fire risk assessments are carried out for all parts of the premises and accommodation, including areas where this was not the case at the previous inspection. Record of actions taken show that recommendations arising from these assessments have been implemented effectively, also confirmed by the tour of the school.

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

- 2.7 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.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 School leaders and governors have acted swiftly and effectively to address the action points raised at the previous inspection. In particular, they have strengthened staff's understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, particularly those relating to reporting allegations and disclosures, and ensured that suitable fire risk assessments are in place across the entire school site and acted upon effectively. As a result, the proprietor has ensured that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are consistently met, thereby actively promoting the well-being of the 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

Written materials

- Safeguarding policy
- Code of conduct for staff
- Records of staff training with particular reference to safeguarding
- Behaviour policy
- Fire safety policy
- The fire risk assessment and record of actions taken in response
- The written recruitment procedure
- Records and correspondence relating to safeguarding
- Log of sanctions and evidence of monitoring
- Documentation relating to the implementation of the school's action plan

Meetings with school personnel

- Introductory meeting with headmaster to discuss arrangements for the day and to provide initial thoughts on areas specified as focus for the visit
- Meeting with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to discuss implementation of safeguarding policy, training and induction of new staff
- Meeting with the DSL to view records in connection with behaviour
- Meeting with a total of seven teaching and non-teaching staff from across the whole school to discuss their training, understanding and implementation of safeguarding procedures
- Discussion with the chair of governors
- Review meeting with the headmaster and DSL to explain findings

Activities on site

- Further scrutiny and evaluation of implementation of policies and documentation (as detailed above)
- Tour of the school
- Meeting of inspectors