

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

School name	Yarlet School
DfE number	860/6000
Registered charity number	528618
Address	Yarlet School Yarlet Stafford Staffordshire ST18 9SU
Headteacher	Mr Ian Raybould
Chair of governors	Mrs Sarah Tennant
Date of visit	26 November 2018

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Yarlet School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for pupils aged 2 to 13 years. It is administered by a board of governors. There are currently 171 pupils on roll, 46 of whom are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and 72 of whom are boarders. The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities is 32. They require support with a range of mild learning difficulties. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. Four pupils speak English as an additional language. The previous ISI focused compliance and educational quality inspections took place in April 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 focused compliance inspection in April 2018.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7(a), 7(b) and 8(b); and NMS 11 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11; and NMS 6.1 and 6.2 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 and NMS 7.1 (fire safety)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 25 and NMS 6 (maintenance)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraphs 34(1)(b) and NMS 13.4 (quality of leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7(a) and (b), and 8(a) and (b); 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. It has regard to the most recent statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (September 2018)*. The policy identifies a governor with responsibility for the oversight of safeguarding. A range of suitable documentation covering the safe recruitment of staff, whistleblowing, a staff code of conduct and information on how pupils are educated about online safety provides further guidance for staff.

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) 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, Part 5 and Annex A. Staff reported 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 (DBS) and/or Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) when appropriate

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 6.1 and 6.2]

- 2.5 The school meets the standards.
- 2.6 The school ensures that a suitable approach towards ensuring the health and safety of pupils is in place. The health and safety policy contains appropriate content and guidance. Staff receive appropriate and regular training in health and safety. Logs show systematic recording of all maintenance, testing, and internal and external checks. Portable electrical appliance and fixed-wire testing, and gas services checks are all up to date and in place. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that timely action is taken to address issues relating to asbestos management and the storage of hazardous materials. It has also ensured that classrooms containing dangerous equipment are kept locked when adults are not present, so that the school premises provide a consistently safe environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 7.1]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school meets all fire safety requirements and adopts a systematic approach towards ensuring pupils are safe from the risk of fire. All staff receive appropriate training in fire safety, including during induction. The school has appointed competent persons as fire wardens, who have appropriate training, experience and knowledge for the role. Fire equipment is tested by an external company annually, and fire alarms are tested frequently and regularly. Fire drills are carried out termly at different times of day. Leaders have ensured that a suitable fire risk assessment is in place. Records show that the school has ensured that appropriate preventative and protective measures for fire safety are carried out and monitored by the senior leadership team and governors. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that appropriate and timely action is taken to remedy shortcomings identified by fire assessments.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25; NMS 6]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 Accommodation for pupils, including in the boarding houses, is suitably heated and ventilated, and the premises and equipment are clean and well maintained. Since the previous inspection, the governors have conducted several health and safety audits to ensure that premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 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(1)(b); 13.4]

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, including those relating to health and safety and fire safety, 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 focused compliance inspection.

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 relevant 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
- Sample risk assessments (including in school, visits out, and those relating to the EYFS and to boarding accommodation)
- The code of conduct for staff
- Governors' minutes with regard to the annual review of the safeguarding/child protection policy and procedures
- Health and safety policy
- Fire safety policy
- The fire risk assessment and record of actions taken in response
- Risk assessment policy
- The written recruitment procedure

Meetings with school personnel

- Introductory meeting with headteacher, to discuss arrangements for the day and to provide initial thoughts on areas specified as focus for the visit
- A meeting with the DSL to discuss implementation of safeguarding policy, training and induction of new staff
- A meeting with the bursar – to discuss health and safety and risk assessment, and to review the school's records of health and safety and fire safety checks, training records, risk assessments and accident and maintenance logs
- A meeting with a total of six teaching and non-teaching staff, selected by inspectors, to discuss their training, safeguarding pupils and promoting e-safety, and health and safety and risk assessment procedures
- A meeting with eight pupils selected by the inspectors to explore what it is like to be a pupil at the school
- A discussion with the vice-chair of governors about the school's progress against his action plan
- A review meeting with the headteacher and the vice-chair of governors – to explain findings

Activities on site

- Further scrutiny and evaluation of implementation of policies and documentation (as detailed above)
- Tour of the school, including the early years setting and boarding accommodation
- Interviews with pupils, including boarders, in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8, chosen by inspectors
- Meeting of inspectors