



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Material Change Visit

The Moat School

September 2021

School's details

School	The Moat School			
DfE number	205/6395			
Address	The Moat School Bishops Avenue Fulham London SW6 6EG			
Telephone number	0207 610 9018			
Email address	office@moatschool.org.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Koen Claeys			
Proprietor	Cavendish Education Group			
Age range	9 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	140			
	Juniors	5	Seniors	92
	Sixth Form	43		
Date of visit	22 September 2021			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The Moat School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 9 to 18. The sixth form has its own site in Ravenscourt Park, while the rest of the school is situated in Fulham. The school is overseen by Cavendish Education Group. The current headmaster took up his post in September 2019. All pupils at the school have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). There are 106 pupils in the school who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and 14 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspections were a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2019, followed by a material change visit in March 2019.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an announced material change visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase its age range from 9 to 18 to 9 to 21. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 2A (relationships and sex education)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupils' performance)	Met
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school implements a suitable curriculum policy which is supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work. These provide a suitably broad and balanced curriculum which is designed effectively to meet the needs of the pupils, including the many with EHC plans. Senior pupils and those in the sixth form receive appropriate and impartial careers guidance which takes their individual needs, interests and circumstances into account. The curriculum includes suitable personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), much of which takes the form of the school's bespoke *Life Skills* programme of study. Pupils aged 16 years and over, including those above compulsory school age, receive a programme of studies appropriate to their needs. The curriculum is planned and implemented effectively to enable pupils across the school to make good progress and prepare them for life in British society. This is likely to remain the case once the proposed material change takes place, as it is designed to give the oldest pupils more time and opportunity to prepare for nationally standardised examinations as well as other future possibilities.

Quality of education provided – relationships and sex education [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2A]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school implements an appropriate relationships and sex education (RSE) policy. The RSE schemes of work contain appropriate content for the ages and developmental needs of the pupils including those in the sixth form. Discussions with leaders and curriculum documentation demonstrate that the school has taken into account the likely needs of pupils aged 18 to 21 years. The teaching of RSE content is designed to be accessible to all pupils. The RSE provided by the school is likely to remain suitable for the pupils and continue to take their individual needs into account once the proposed material change takes place.

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Teaching across the school, including in the sixth form, motivates pupils and enables them to make good progress. Teaching takes into account individual pupils' needs systematically and effectively. Good quality classroom resources are utilised effectively to further pupils' learning, understanding, and application of intellectual effort. Teaching encourages pupils to behave respectfully, exhibit positive values, and think and learn for themselves. Teaching is likely to remain appropriate and meet pupils' needs once the proposed increase in age range takes place.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school implements a suitable framework for pupils' performance. Staff use various forms of assessment to identify pupils' needs and adapt the teaching and curriculum to meet these as a result.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.

2.10 The proprietor, leaders and staff actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The school takes effective steps to enable pupils to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. It encourages pupils to differentiate between right and wrong and take responsibility for their own actions. Leaders and staff promote effectively pupils' understanding of and respect for the democratic process and British law, institutions and services. The school promotes pupils' respect for and appreciation of their own and others' cultural traditions. It encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act. The spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of pupils is likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

Safeguarding policy

2.11 The school meets the requirements.

2.12 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

2.13 The school meets the standard.

2.14 The school acts in the best interests of the child through effective implementation of its safeguarding procedures. In particular, leaders and staff recognise the particular vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND, including peer-on-peer abuse. They teach the pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online or using social media, and encourage them to voice any concerns that they might have. In discussion, pupils stated that they felt that the school listened to them and took action to alleviate any worries or concerns. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), deputy DSLs and all staff are suitably trained. They demonstrate a suitable understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and the staff code of conduct, as well as of different types of abuse, and understand and operate referral procedures effectively. Leaders and staff also demonstrate understanding of the school's suitable arrangements for handling any allegations of abuse against persons working with the pupils. Safeguarding records show that the school implements locally agreed safeguarding procedures effectively, including with regard to peer-on-peer abuse, with appropriate support provided to perpetrators as well as victims. The school refers concerns to other agencies when appropriate. The proprietor maintains suitable oversight of safeguarding, including through a systematic annual review of safeguarding. The school implements an effective safer recruitment policy. The proprietor and senior leaders, including those in the safeguarding team, have conducted a systematic risk assessment of the potential safeguarding issues connected with the inclusion of pupils aged 18 to 21 years in the school. This risk assessment identifies appropriate control measures to minimise such risks and to safeguard both pupils aged 18 to 21 and younger pupils. The school's implementation of safeguarding is likely to remain effective once the proposed increase in age range takes place.

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

2.15 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]

2.16 The school meets the standard.

- 2.17 Leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are met. They actively promote the well-being of the pupils. The proprietor, leaders and managers convey a sensible rationale for the proposed material change that emphasises its desired benefit for the education and welfare of pupils aged 18 to 21. They have planned and prepared effectively for the proposed material change.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 The proprietor, leaders and managers convey a sensible rationale for the proposed material change that emphasises its desired benefit for the welfare of pupils aged 18 to 21. They have planned and prepared effectively to accommodate pupils of these ages into the school. Therefore, it is recommended that the proposed material change, to increase the school's age range from 9 to 18 to 9 to 21, be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the headmaster, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a member of the proprietary body. He visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.