



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Additional Inspection Report

Stoke College

January 2023

School's details

School	Stoke College			
DfE number	935/6003			
Address	Stoke College Ashen Lane Stoke-by-Clare Sudbury Suffolk CO10 8JE			
Telephone number	01787 278141			
Email address	info@stokecollege.co.uk			
Principal	Dr Gareth Lloyd			
Proprietor	Mrs Zhao Jie Guo			
Age range	11 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	148			
	Day pupils	123	Boarders	25
	Seniors	98	Sixth Form	50
Dates of inspection	23 January 2023 and 24 March 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Stoke College is a co-educational boarding and day school located in a rural setting near Sudbury, Suffolk, offering both flexible and full boarding. Since the previous inspection, ownership has been vested in a limited company. The school has identified 33 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Six pupils have an education, health and care plan. Nine pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in May 2019.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) which focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1 paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	Met
Part 4 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 19	Met
Part 6, paragraph 34(i)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

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

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 Teaching is well planned and delivered by staff who have appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subjects taught. Evidence from observation of lessons, scrutiny of work and discussions with pupils confirms that teaching fosters self-motivation, effort and interest, is appropriately adapted to meet the needs of all pupils, and that pupils are able to access suitable and timely support when needed. This enables pupils to make good progress according to their ability. A suitable framework is in place to assess pupils' work and understanding and information from this assessment is used effectively to plan teaching. Teaching resources are suitable in range, quantity and quality. Appropriate classroom management strategies are implemented to ensure that pupils act responsibly and benefit from a productive environment which is conducive to effective learning. The proprietor ensures that teaching does not undermine fundamental British values and does not discriminate against pupils contrary to the Equality Act 2010.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.3 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.4 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

- 2.5 The school meets the standards.
- 2.6 The school promotes pupils' welfare effectively through the effective implementation of the school's safeguarding policy and associated procedures. These include a suitable code of conduct for staff. Where staff are alleged not to have observed the code suitable investigations are made. Pupils can voice any concerns they may have. They confirmed that they are confident that they will be listened to and that the school will respond appropriately. Safeguarding records confirm that this happens in practice. The school has robust procedures for dealing with and referring concerns about children in need or at risk. It acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures, working with local safeguarding partnerships.
- 2.7 Pupils understand how to stay safe online and both pupils and staff receive appropriate training in this area. Monitoring of the use of technology is effective and is overseen appropriately by governors.
- 2.8 Staff training for all adults in the school, including senior leaders and those with specific safeguarding responsibilities, is effective. Staff know how to identify signs of abuse or neglect, and they understand the increased vulnerability of pupils with SEND. Senior leaders have effective measures in place to guide and support those involved in any safeguarding concern, including matters of pupils' behaviour. Suitable record keeping enables them to identify patterns, including those relating to any issues of pupil behaviour, and to modify the school's educational provision and supervision arrangements accordingly. Appropriate steps are taken to deal with any allegations against any adult working in the school. Where relevant, the school refers inappropriate behaviour to external agencies, including the Disclosure and Barring Service. Governors have effective training in safeguarding. Oversight by the proprietor is suitably robust and includes an annual review of safeguarding policy and practice. The

proprietor requires appropriate recruitment procedures to be implemented, including for guardians. Guardianship arrangements are appropriate.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 The proprietor maintains effective oversight of recruitment procedures, including for boarding. These are in line with the school's recruitment policy, and they are implemented suitably, including for the proprietor. All staff who work at the school are checked appropriately before they start work, including those who work in boarding. A record of these checks is kept as required.

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

- 2.11 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 2]

- 2.12 The school meets the standards.
- 2.13 The proprietor ensures that the school's leaders and managers demonstrate appropriate knowledge and skills to ensure that the other standards are met consistently, including those relating to health and safety. This ensures that the school actively promotes the wellbeing of pupils, including boarders. Boarding staff are knowledgeable and experienced and have undertaken appropriate training in the management and practice of boarding.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a governor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Bill Burn	Reporting inspector
Mr Kerry Lord	Reporting inspector
Mr David Scott	Assistant reporting inspector