

ST JOHN'S PRIORY SCHOOL

St John's Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 5HX

16 OCTOBER 2017

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

St John's Priory School is an independent coeducational day school for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 years. The school is a limited company and governance is provided by the two proprietors, who are also directors of the company. There are 88 pupils at the school, 57 boys and 31 girls. The school does not have any pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil has a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for four pupils, none of whom receive additional support.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit carried out at the request of the DfE to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance inspection on 7th February 2017. The focus of the visit was on welfare, health and safety of pupils (safeguarding), and the quality of leadership in and management of schools.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b)]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The school meets the regulations.

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.

The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. The policy includes suitable whistleblowing procedures. Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils as they pay due regard to current statutory guidance.

Safeguarding is correctly managed and procedures are regularly reviewed, including a formal annual review by the proprietors. All members of staff, including those with designated responsibility for safeguarding, have appropriate levels of safeguarding training, attend regular update training and have a clear understanding of safeguarding and their responsibilities. Suitable arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff, which includes training in safeguarding. There are appropriate recruitment procedures in place and references are taken up before employment commences as evidenced in three appointments since the previous inspection. The school has produced a flow chart to ensure all stages of the recruitment process are followed methodically. There is a suitable code of conduct in place which is implemented effectively and understood by all staff, including advice on e-safety and the appropriate use of social media.

The school ensures that pupils stay safe on-line and has a suitable e-safety programme in place. Pupils are aware of how technology can be misused and how they can minimise risks.

The school liaises effectively with local agencies and when required, understands that prompt action must be taken if concerns are expressed about a child. The designated safeguarding lead maintains appropriate and regular contact with the relevant children's services. Suitable procedures are in place to deal with allegations against members of staff; there have been no referrals to DBS or NCTL needed since the previous inspection. Pupils interviewed said they feel happy and safe in the school. They confirmed that there are adults within the school to whom they would turn if they had an anxiety or personal concern and they were confident that they would receive help.

Quality of leadership in and management of schools [ISSR Part 8 paragraph 34(1)(a) and (b)]

The school meets the requirements.

Leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently. This was evidenced in interview and in the review of associated documentation, including job descriptions and minutes of senior leadership and proprietorial meetings. They fulfil their responsibilities in all regulatory areas including safeguarding and the safer recruitment of staff.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.