



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Orchard House School

June 2023

School's details

School	Orchard House School			
DfE number	307/6074			
Address	Orchard House School 16 Newton Grove London W4 1LB			
Telephone number	020 8742 8544			
Email address	info@orchardhs.org.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Kit Thompson			
Chair of governors	Mrs Libby Nicholas			
Proprietor	Dukes Education			
Age range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	274			
	EYFS	54	Lower Juniors	83
	Upper Juniors	137		
Date of inspection	27 June 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Orchard House School is a preparatory day school located in a residential area of Chiswick, London. It is owned and governed by Dukes Education. The school is situated on two sites, one accommodating pupils aged 3 to 6 years and the other, those aged 7 to 11 years. The school has 48 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil in the school has an education, health and care plan. There are 43 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection on 1 to 3 November 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to educate an additional 35 Nursery-age pupils which requires an increase in overall capacity from 300 to 335 pupils. The additional pupils will be accommodated in an existing building already operating as a nursery on Woodstock Road, which the school has acquired. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

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

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.
- 2.4 Arrangements to safeguarding and promote the welfare of all pupils, including those in the EYFS, are implemented effectively in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022*. Pupils understand how to keep safe, including online. They stated that they have numerous trusted adults that they can turn to for support should they have a concern, and that appropriate action is taken where required. This is confirmed by records of safeguarding.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies, together with staff and governors, are suitably trained for their roles. They complete training at the required intervals and receive regular informal updates. Training includes information on Prevent. Staff know the procedures to follow should they have a concern or receive a disclosure and understand that they can make direct referrals to the local safeguarding partnership if necessary. Staff are provided with clear guidelines on expected behaviour through the staff code of conduct and are aware of the whistleblowing policy. The school has suitable arrangements in place to deal with allegations against a member of staff, including low level concerns. Staff recruitment procedures meet the requirements. The governors maintain appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures. A comprehensive annual review process takes place.
- 2.6 The safeguarding team work closely together and includes representatives from all sections of the school. Due consideration has been given to ensuring that lines of communications remain suitable for the proposed increase in the number of EYFS children, including having a deputy DSL in the proposed additional nursery accommodation. Records seen confirm that the school acts appropriately and in line with local procedures when a concern is raised. This includes working with external agencies where appropriate.
- 2.7 The existing arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The proprietor ensures that the relevant health and safety laws are complied with. The school has a suitable health and safety policy that is implemented effectively. Regular reviews of relevant measures are in place, including by external specialists, and effective records of checks are maintained. Due regard is paid to the related EYFS requirements, such as for food hygiene.
- 2.10 The proposed accommodation for the additional number of EYFS children is likely to continue to meet requirements. There is no change in use of the building where they will be housed, or the maximum number of children accommodated. The accommodation is already owned by the proprietor and health and safety matters are overseen by staff already working for the school.
- 2.11 The existing arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The proprietor ensures that the requirements of the regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005 are adhered to in all buildings. Appropriate fire risk assessments have been undertaken by suitably qualified external specialists. Actions as a result of these checks are promptly addressed. This includes any required for the proposed additional accommodation. Fire procedures are suitably understood by staff and pupils, and regular training is in place. Regular fire drills are undertaken and recorded and fire safety equipment is appropriately installed and maintained.
- 2.14 The existing arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 Pupils of all ages, including children in the EYFS, are supervised appropriately by staff with suitable training and qualifications. Ratios in the EYFS are maintained as required. The school will employ the current staff of the additional nursery. This will maintain a suitable level of staffing for the age of children.
- 2.17 The arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 The school's risk assessment policy promotes the welfare of pupils appropriately and is implemented effectively. Leaders and staff demonstrate a secure understanding of the policy and procedures. Suitable risk assessments are in place for all relevant areas of the school and leaders are already reviewing these for the proposed additional nursery accommodation. Risk assessments also suitably consider other areas including activities, outings, and medical issues.
- 2.20 The existing arrangements are likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.21 The school meets the standards.
- 2.22 The school undertake appropriate checks to ensure that staff, supply staff and proprietors are suitable for their role. Procedures are well known by staff in charge of conducting checks and implemented effectively. A register of appointments is maintained as required as well as suitable staff recruitment files.
- 2.23 Arrangements for the proposed TUPE of existing nursery staff in the proposed additional nursery, which will accommodate the increase in pupil numbers, are appropriate. These make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23–29]

- 2.24 The school meets the standard.
- 2.25 Premises and accommodation are of a suitable standard, including the proposed additional nursery accommodation. The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils, including in the EYFS. Appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical needs is in place on both sites, and in the proposed additional accommodation. The premises and accommodation are maintained to the standard required by health and safety legislation. Acoustic and lighting are appropriate and water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for outdoor play and physical education.
- 2.26 The provision is likely to continue to be sufficient to meet the needs of the increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.27 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]

- 2.28 The school meets the standard.
- 2.29 Senior leaders and governors demonstrate good skills and knowledge, enabling them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are met consistently. The wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. Plans for the acquisition of the additional nursery are suitable and have been implemented effectively. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increased number of pupils.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its total pupil numbers to 335 is granted. The proprietors have made suitable arrangements to transfer the ownership of the nursery from one of their existing schools to another. These are both overseen by the same governing body who adopt a suitably strategic approach to governance and monitoring. The proposed number of children to be accommodated in the nursery is the same as that currently educated there, and staffing will remain the same. Suitable planning has been undertaken to provide consistency of approach across the school and the additional nursery, including for risk assessment and safeguarding.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met remotely with the chair of governors and group compliance director. She visited different areas of the school, including the proposed additional nursery accommodation, and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspector

Miss Jacqueline Scotney

Reporting inspector