

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Castle House School

November 2020



School's details

School	Castle House School			
DfE number	894/6002			
Registered charity number	510515			
Address	Castle House School Chetwyn End Newport Shropshire TF10 7JE			
Telephone number	01952 567600			
Email address	admin@castlehouseschool.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mr Ian Sterling			
Chair of governors	Mrs Laura Calcroft			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	58			
	EYFS	20	Juniors	38
Date of visit	25 November 2020			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Castle House School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged from two to eleven years. The school is a charitable trust, overseen by a board of governors. The current chair of governors took up the position in January 2019, and the current board lead for safeguarding in February 2020. The school has fourteen pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom one has an education, health and care plan. There is one pupil who speaks English as an additional language. The school's previous regulatory compliance inspection took place on 31 January to 1 February 2018, and progress monitoring visits took place on 5 December 2018, 12 June 2019, and 18 October 2019.

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 progress monitoring visit on 18 October 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
ISSR 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 The school acts in the best interests of the pupils, including children in the EYFS. School leaders and staff encourage pupils to share any worries or concerns that they might have, such as through messages communicated through the curriculum and the provision of ‘worry boxes’ in the classrooms. Pupils who spoke to the inspectors conveyed that they can go to staff should they have any concerns, and that staff, whom they described as kind, caring, trustworthy, and fair, listen to them and act to alleviate their worries. Pupils also confirmed that they receive clear guidance about how to keep safe, including when online. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), deputy DSLs and staff are suitably trained. Leaders keep clear records of staff training and ensure that all staff complete required training, including that provided at induction, which includes all necessary elements. The records of training also confirm that governors have completed safeguarding training since the previous progress monitoring visit which is sufficient to enable them to monitor safeguarding effectively. Discussion with staff confirmed their understanding of and willingness to follow the appropriate procedures should any safeguarding concern, including any related to peer-on-peer abuse. They showed awareness of appropriate actions should an allegation arise against an adult working in the school and arrangements for any such situation are appropriate. Safeguarding records demonstrate that the school acts suitably should any safeguarding concern present itself, including liaising with, seeking advice from, and referring to pertinent external agencies. Governors ensure that the annual review of safeguarding, which is shaped through the use of the local authority safeguarding audit tool, is subject to suitable and thorough scrutiny. Scrutiny of the annual safeguarding reviews of 2019 and 2020, and of the minutes of the governing body meetings in which these reviews were discussed further, confirms appropriate depth and breadth of oversight.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 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]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 Leaders and governors have taken effective steps to carry out the actions required as a result of the previous progress monitoring visit. Consequently, leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are now met consistently, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

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, and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the headteacher, senior leaders and other members of staff and spoke with the vice-chair of governors and the safeguarding governor. They talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.