



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

## **Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit**

**Griffin House Preparatory School**

**March 2021**



## School's details

<b>School</b>	Griffin House Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	825/6023			
<b>Address</b>	Griffin House Preparatory School Little Kimble Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP17 0XP			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01844 346154			
<b>Email address</b>	secretary@griffinhouseschool.co.uk			
<b>Headmaster</b>	Mr Tim Walford			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Chatsworth Schools Ltd			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 11			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	180			
	<b>EYFS</b>	39	<b>Prep</b>	141
<b>Date of visit</b>	18 March 2021			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Griffin House Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged from three to eleven years. Since January 2019, the school has been owned and overseen by Chatsworth Schools Ltd, which provides the school's governing body of nine members. The school has eight pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom two have an education, health and care plan. There are two pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous focused compliance and educational quality inspections took place in February 2020.

### 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 focused compliance and educational quality inspections on 25 to 27 February 2020.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraph 28 (water)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 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 interest of children and pupils, encouraging listening to children and taking action in response to concerns they raise. It manages safeguarding effectively through a team consisting of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and three deputy DSLs, one of whom is the named person for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Staff, including the DSL and deputy DSLs, are suitably trained. Those who spoke to the inspectors demonstrated understanding of, and willingness to uphold, their responsibilities towards safeguarding. They understand the procedures to follow, including should any concern about peer-on-peer abuse or allegations against school personnel arise. Safeguarding records seen confirm that the school follows locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and that referrals, including to pertinent outside agencies, are swift. Staff who spoke to the inspectors were knowledgeable about the school's code of conduct and whistleblowing procedures. Pupils who spoke to the inspectors communicated that the school is a safe place and demonstrated understanding of strategies they could use to stay safe when online. The proprietary body's safeguarding governor works with the school to review safeguarding on a termly basis as well as completing a suitable annual review of the safeguarding policy and procedures. Appropriate measures for safe recruitment are taken.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school implements an appropriate health and safety policy effectively. Leaders with designated responsibility conduct regular audits of health and safety, including in the EYFS, and report to a health and safety committee. Every staff meeting includes health and safety on the agenda. No health and safety issues were identified during a tour of the school. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that the school pays consistent regard to health and safety requirements in order to create a safe environment for pupils.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 Leaders ensure that the school conforms with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Staff, including named fire marshals, have received appropriate fire safety training. The school carries out fire evacuation drills at least termly. Fire detection and fire-fighting equipment is appropriately tested and maintained. Records since the previous inspection show that prompt action is now taken whenever potential fire hazards are identified, including any identified by the school's fire risk assessment.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school implements its risk assessment policy effectively, including in the EYFS. Since the previous inspection, leaders have introduced a new risk assessment proforma and ensured that all risk assessments are signed off by the headmaster. Staff are appropriately trained in risk assessment. Sample risk assessments seen by the inspectors, including those relating to COVID-19, had been drawn up in accordance with the school's risk assessment policy and identified areas of risk appropriately. The risks identified had been mitigated effectively. For example, hazardous chemicals were stored safely, and the stream in the school grounds had been fenced off to prevent any unauthorised access.

**Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25]**

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Maintenance records seen by the inspectors demonstrate that appropriate checks, servicing and maintenance are in place. A tour of the school did not identify any issues. Leaders ensure that prompt attention is given to maintenance issues in order to ensure pupils' welfare and safety. For example, matters such as window restrictors, the prevention of roof tiles from falling, and the suitability of fire escapes have been dealt with effectively.

**Premises and accommodation – water [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28]**

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The school ensures the suitability of water. In particular, since the previous inspection, temperature control valves have been fitted and leaders check water temperatures regularly to ensure that water is always at a safe temperature for pupils to use.

**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 the proprietary body have successfully completed the actions required by the previous inspection. As a result, those with responsibility for leadership and management of the school demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are met consistently. The school actively promotes 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 headmaster, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with two members of the proprietary body. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.