



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Surbiton High School

December 2022

School's details

School	Surbiton High School			
DfE number	314/6003			
Early Years registration number	EY102611			
Registered charity number	1016538			
Address	Surbiton High School 13–15 Surbiton Crescent Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey KT1 2JT			
Telephone number	020 8546 5245			
Email address	surbitonprincipalsoffice@surbitonhigh			
Head	Mrs Rebecca Glover			
Proprietor	United Church Schools Trust			
Age range	2 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	1626			
	EYFS	50	Juniors	461
	Seniors	843	Sixth Form	272
Date of inspection	12 December 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Surbiton High School is an independent day school in Surrey. It comprises three distinct sections: a preparatory school for female pupils aged 4 to 11, which includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting; a preparatory school for male pupils aged 4 to 11, which includes an EYFS setting; and a senior school for female pupils aged 11 to 18. The school is owned by the United Church Schools Trust, which has overall responsibility for the governance and management of the school. A local governing board operates in a mainly advisory capacity. The school has 290 pupils who receive support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Six pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan, and 124 speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in March 2018.

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 increase pupil numbers to 1630 across all three sections. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

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)	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 The standard is met because the school's safeguarding policy and associated procedures are implemented effectively. This safeguards the welfare of pupils, including those in the EYFS. Pupils can voice any concerns they may have. They confirmed that they are confident that they will receive an appropriate response and that the school will take appropriate action. Records of safeguarding incidents confirm that this happens in practice. The school has robust procedures for dealing with and referring concerns about children who are in need or at risk, and it acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures, including links with local safeguarding partnerships. Provision does not discriminate against pupils contrary to the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.5 Staff are trained effectively. They understand how to identify the signs of abuse or neglect, and the vulnerability of children with SEND. Pupils are confident that the school would respond appropriately to any allegation of abuse and has arrangements to support all concerned. Recording of all incidents is thorough and detailed and enables the school's leaders to identify patterns and modify its educational provision accordingly. Suitable arrangements exist to deal with allegations against any adult working in the school. Training for governors is suitable and oversight by the proprietor is effective, including an annual review of safeguarding.
- 2.6 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school implements appropriate strategies to identify and address any issues related to the health and safety of those in the school. Senior leaders and governors monitor the implementation of a suitable policy on health and safety to ensure the associated processes are effective.
- 2.9 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The school takes appropriate steps to assess the risk from fire in all its buildings. School leaders ensure that evacuation procedures are effective, that all equipment such as fire extinguishers are regularly checked and serviced, and that relevant record-keeping is detailed and thorough. External consultants conduct regular reviews of all arrangements to ensure that they remain suitable.

- 2.12 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Staff at the school are suitably deployed to ensure that pupils are always supervised effectively during the day, including in the EYFS. In addition, the informal contact between pupils and staff is frequent and regular, so that pupils say there is always someone to whom they can speak if they have any concerns.
- 2.15 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The proprietor promotes and safeguards the welfare of the pupils through a suitable written risk assessment policy and by ensuring that appropriate action is taken to reduce any risks that are identified. This includes measures to reduce risk associated with activities away from the school, and with any potential hazards in school such as those in science or technology lessons, or in physical education. In addition, school leaders take steps to minimise the risk to pupils who may have been the subject of a safeguarding concern or incident, by monitoring and supporting them effectively afterwards.
- 2.18 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.19 The school meets the standards.
- 2.20 Senior leaders maintain effective oversight of recruitment procedures. These follow guidelines set out in the recruitment policy and are implemented effectively. This ensures that all those who work at the school are suitable by carrying out all required pre-employment checks. A suitable record of checks is kept as required.
- 2.21 Arrangements are likely to continue to meet the requirements with the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 There are suitable washing and toilet facilities for the sole use of pupils, as well as changing accommodation and showers where required by the standard. There is suitable accommodation for medical examination and for the care of any pupils who are ill or injured. The proprietor has a strategic approach to ensuring that the premises and accommodation are maintained to a standard which supports the welfare of pupils. The existing premises are sufficient to cater for the proposed increase in the total number of pupils. Acoustics, lighting and water supplies are all appropriate. There is sufficient outdoor space available to enable physical education and outdoor play, including in the EYFS, and at nearby playing fields and a boathouse.

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

- 2.24 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]

- 2.25 The school meets the standard.
- 2.26 The proprietor ensures that the senior leaders and managers in the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge so that they promote the wellbeing of the pupils, and they ensure that the independent school standards are met. Planning by the proprietor and senior leaders for the proposed increase in numbers has been suitably thorough.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the proposed increase in numbers be approved since the existing accommodation is suitable and, if the school implements its plans effectively, it is likely to continue to meet the standards.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a governor. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils from all three sections. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Bill Burn

Reporting inspector