



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Avenue House School

9 May 2024

School's details

School	Avenue House School			
DfE number	307/6075			
Address	Avenue House School 70 The Avenue London W13 8LS			
Telephone number	020 89989981			
Email address	school@avenuehouse.org			
Headteacher	Ms Natalia Ambridge			
Proprietor	Mr David Immanuel			
Age range	4 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	82			
	EYFS	14	Prep	68
Date of inspection	9 May 2024			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Avenue House School is an independent, co-educational day school in West Ealing. It was founded in 1995 and is overseen by an individual proprietor, supported by an advisor. The school consists of an early years setting comprising one Reception class and a prep department for pupils aged 5 to 11. The school has identified 13 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. One pupil in the school has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language for 17 pupils. The current headteacher took up her position in September 2023. The school's previous inspection was a routine inspection in September 2023.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the routine inspection on 19 to 21 September 2023. 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 1, paragraph 2A (relationships and sex education)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – relationships and sex education [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2A]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 Leaders now ensure that the policy for relationships and sex education (RSE) reflects the statutory guidance currently in force. They have consulted parents effectively about the content of the RSE policy and about developing and reviewing the policy, before appropriate amendments have been made. The revised policy clarifies appropriately the right of parents to withdraw their children from the sex education aspects taught in the curriculum. It further clarifies that pupils may not be withdrawn from aspects of health education taught in science. Leaders publish this policy on the website to enable parental access.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.3 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.4 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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Leaders implement the policy to safeguard the welfare of pupils effectively. All staff have been trained appropriately to apply the policy at a level reflecting their role. Systems ensure that training remains current and relevant. Training includes how to record incidents on the safeguarding management software. Staff take appropriate action when concerns are raised about pupils, including by following locally agreed safeguarding procedures. Leaders keep records securely.
- 2.7 Leaders have updated the staff code of conduct. It now reflects the current statutory guidance. It gives effective guidance on how staff should respond to low-level concerns about adults. Staff who have joined the school since the previous inspection have received the code of conduct before starting work. Existing staff have received the most recent, updated version. Staff understand how to identify and report low-level concerns.
- 2.8 Leaders ensure pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, including when using the internet. Appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are employed effectively in accordance with the safeguarding policy. Any potential attempts to access inappropriate sites are now flagged to enable leaders to take appropriate action.
- 2.9 The school now has secure processes to reduce the risk of children becoming missing in education. Leaders inform the local authority of pupils joining or leaving the school at non-standard transition times.
- 2.10 The proprietor now maintains appropriate oversight of welfare and safeguarding procedures, including monitoring of internet usage. The recent annual audit was conducted in school rather than remotely to ensure evidence was reviewed first hand. During regular meetings, the proprietor and leaders discuss relevant reports, including the audit. Policy changes are scrutinised and ratified to ensure they follow statutory guidance.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Leaders maintain an up-to-date record of the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour. Leaders and staff use third-party software to record all behaviour issues and sanctions given. The staff have been trained effectively to use the software and do so successfully. Leaders track incidents to spot recurring problems and analyse trends that may develop over time.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Leaders and staff promote pupils' emotional and physical wellbeing by consistently applying the anti-bullying policy. Staff support all pupils involved if bullying is suspected. Pupils report that incidents are few. Leaders have integrated bullying records, including sanctions, into the same software as welfare concerns and behaviour. As a result, records are up-to-date, cohesive and accessible to leaders. Leaders analyse data effectively to track patterns, take action, and consider links between bullying, behaviour and welfare concerns.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standard.
- 2.16 Leaders have implemented a systematic and effective approach to fire risk assessment. An audit from a suitably qualified and experienced consultant identified necessary remedial actions. These included the installation of emergency lighting, and improvements to fire doors and exit signage. All emergency actions were completed promptly and longer-term actions are booked in appropriately with contractors. Staff carry out regular fire safety equipment checks of the whole school, including in the early years. Issues are recorded, and leaders take appropriate action. Fire wardens have been appropriately trained to spot hazards and manage evacuation drills.

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

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 A suitable risk assessment policy, which includes identifying risks and planning mitigations, is in place and implemented effectively. Risk assessments undertaken include those of daily activities, outdoor play, trips off-site and those required in the early years. Staff complete daily checks of the site and rectify hazards.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 Leaders have fully and successfully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous inspection. The proprietor provides appropriate oversight to ensure that those with leadership management responsibilities now demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently and actively promote the wellbeing of all pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, 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 inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor and advisor to the proprietor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils and staff. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.