



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

St Pius X Preparatory School

October 2019



School's details

School	St Pius X Preparatory School			
DfE number	888/6004			
Registered charity number	526609			
Address	St Pius X Preparatory School 200 Garstang Road Fulwood Preston Lancashire PR2 8RD			
Telephone number	01772 719937			
Email address	enquiries@stpius.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Andrew Platts			
Chair of governors	Mrs Gillian Ferris			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	146			
	Boys	85	Girls	61
	EYFS	66	Juniors	80
Date of visit	1 October 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Pius X is a Catholic co-educational day school. The school was founded in 1955 and occupies a four-acre site in a residential area of Preston. It is divided into two sections: Oak House Nursery, for children aged two to four years; and the main school, which educates pupils from five to eleven years. The school is a charitable trust, overseen by a board of governors. The school has sixteen pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom four have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. There are 34 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in February 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 compliance inspection on 27 to 28 February 2019. The focus of the visit was on safeguarding, fire safety, suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and the quality of leadership and management of schools.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3 paragraphs 7; EYFS requirements 3.4 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3 paragraph 12 (fire safety).	Met
Part 4 paragraphs 18 to 21; EYFS 3.9 to 3.13 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 6 paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8 paragraphs 34 (quality of leadership in and management of schools)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (a) and (b); EYFS requirements 3.4 to 3.8]

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. The policy refers appropriately to the recruitment policy, which confirms that suitable safeguarding procedures are in place, including the checking of references and prohibition checks from teaching and management, where these are required.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.4 All staff have received recent comprehensive training to ensure that they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes detail of the school's safeguarding policy, the staff code of conduct and procedures for whistleblowing. Regular briefings ensure that staff are kept up to date with new legislation and changes in safeguarding requirements, including those for EYFS.
- 2.5 Staff training is in line with the requirements of Lancashire County Council Children's Services. Staff new to the school receive appropriate induction training, including those staff who start work at times other than the start of term. All staff have been trained in *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2019*, including Part 1 and Annex A. Their understanding of what they have read is checked through scenario discussions and in regular question and answer sessions led by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). Training records are kept by the DSL confirm these include that staff have been suitably trained in their duty to prevent radicalisation.
- 2.6 The school liaises closely with the local agencies and follows the advice they receive. Should concerns or allegations arise, the school knows how to seek advice from the appropriate agencies and, the safeguarding procedures, in place, confirm that the school knows how to make a referral. The school meets all of the requirements for safeguarding children in the EYFS. The school is aware of the need to liaise appropriately with parents about safeguarding concerns that arise to ensure that parental wishes do not override the best interests of the child. Pupils, during discussions, commented that they were aware of safeguarding arrangements in the school, including on-line safety; they felt that they were fairly treated and that staff were approachable, should they have a concern or worry Pupils confirmed that should they have a concern, there are members of staff available to listen to their concerns and they were confident that appropriate actions would be taken where necessary.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school has addressed the failings on the previous inspection related to fire safety effectively. Since the previous inspection external consultants have surveyed the school and have produced a comprehensive fire risk assessment. As a result of this the school has installed new fire controls, emergency lighting and fire prevention systems. All the consultant's recommendations have been implemented and tours of the school buildings confirmed this. A named person is in charge of fire safety at the school, there are trained fire wardens and all staff annually attend a fire safety training session. Pupils receive appropriate guidance on what to do should there be a fire and in discussions

pupils and staff confirmed that fire practices are held at least termly and that they were familiar with the evacuation process.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 and EYFS 3.9-3.13]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.10 The school has rectified the omissions identified at the time of the previous inspection and now ensures that all the required checks are carried out before staff commence employment at the school. In particular these include; a disclosure and barring service (DBS) check and barred list check, medical fitness and qualifications, and checks on those who have resided overseas. Key staff have undertaken appropriate training in staff recruitment and maintenance of the single central register (SCR), which included the requirements for EYFS. A member of the senior management team now manages this process to ensure that the SCR is up to date and accurate, as confirmed during the inspection. The school has a checking process in place, involving senior school staff and governors to ensure that the SCR is robustly maintained, and that no person commences employment before all the necessary checks are undertaken.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the requirement.
- 2.12 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]

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Since the previous inspection the school's leadership and management have taken effective steps to ensure that they have the good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role, effectively fulfil their responsibilities and duties and ensure the well-being of pupils.
- 2.15 Staff and governors have undertaken training to ensure that they are fully aware of their responsibilities, relating to safer recruitment including verifying that staff pre-appointment checks are suitably carried out and recorded. The single central register has been completely reconstructed to meet the requirements of the standard. Summary record sheets listing the recruiting checks that necessary are kept in every personnel file, so there is an early indication of any omissions.
- 2.16 Leadership and management now regularly monitor all risk assessments including those for fire safety, drawing on the expertise of external consultants where necessary. Matters such as safeguarding, fire safety, staff recruitment and pupil well-being are reported to governing board meetings on a termly basis and governors have strengthened their monitoring role. As a result of this increased monitoring and review the school now ensures that the Independent School Standards are consistently met.

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 head, senior leaders and other members of staff and the safeguarding governor. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils and staff. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.