



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Advice Note for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Moorland School

January 2022

School's details

School	Moorland School			
DfE number	888/6002			
Early Years registration number	EY421831			
Address	Moorland School Ribblesdale Avenue Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 2JA			
Telephone number	01200 423833			
Email address	enquiries@moorlandschool.co.uk			
Head	Mrs Deborah Frost			
Proprietor	Mr Jonathan Harrison			
Age range	0 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	319			
	Day pupils	244	Boarders	75
	EYFS	168	Juniors	23
	Seniors	108	Sixth Form	20
Date of visit	31 January 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Moorland School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school situated in Clitheroe. Members of the same family have owned the school for more than 30 years. The current head took up her post in September 2021. The previous head became the principal director of the company that owns the school in 2021 and is the proprietor. An advisory volunteer board provides guidance to the proprietor on a range of legal and educational matters.
- 1.2 The school incorporates ballet and football academies. Boarders are accommodated in one of three houses. The school has 32 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 5 have an education, health and care plan. Two pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in June 2021.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.3 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 regulatory compliance inspection of June 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which are the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11, 15 and 17; EYFS 3.4 and 3.7	Not all met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 6; EYFS 3.55	Not met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 7; EYFS 3.56	Met
Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet, washing and changing facilities); NMS 5 and 6	Not all met
Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance); NMS 5 and 6	Not all met
Part 5, paragraph 27 (internal and external lighting); NMS 5.4	Met
Part 5, paragraph 28 (drinking water and water supply); EYFS 3.55	Not met
Part 5, paragraph 30 (boarding accommodation); NMS 5	Not met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure); NMS 18; EYFS 3.75	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Not met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11, 15 and 17; EYFS 3.4 and 3.7]

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 does not meet all of the relevant standards and requirements.
- 2.4 Arrangements are implemented effectively in most areas to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils, including children in the EYFS, by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance. This includes ensuring a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a wide variety of people to whom they can turn to for support. The school ensures that pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and that appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by suitable records of safeguarding. Pupils are given suitable guidance on staying safe online and the school has sufficient filtering and monitoring procedures in place to ensure appropriate use of technology at all times.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) liaises effectively with the relevant local authorities and children's services, where necessary. Staff understand the different types of child-on-child abuse, including in relation to pupils with SEND, and have a clear understanding of matters relating to sexual harassment. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise.
- 2.6 The school has ensured suitable arrangements are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain all safeguarding requirements.
- 2.7 The school has ensured that boarders' views are listened to and that these are given appropriate weight in decisions about the running of the school. It has ensured that senior boarding staff have suitable training and experience.
- 2.8 Most staff, including those in positions of responsibility, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures, and safeguarding is effectively managed in most areas. However, the implementation of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders does not show full regard for the requirements of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE). Not all those providing sole supervision of and care for boarders, including overnight, are suitably qualified or experienced. Nor have all had adequate training or reviews of their practice. Not all of the accommodation provided for those undertaking such roles is suitably separated from the accommodation and facilities provided for boarders. The proprietor undertakes an annual review of safeguarding but these deficiencies show it is not fully effective.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 6; EYFS 3.55]

- 2.9 The school does not meet the standards and the requirement.

- 2.10 The school has ensured that the science preparation room can be suitably locked, but it does not ensure that chemicals are stored securely within this room. In particular, that flammable liquids are returned to the lockable flammables cupboard promptly, after use.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 7; EYFS 3.56]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards and the requirement.
- 2.12 The school has ensured that it complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, by planning, implementing and recording fire safety measures and carrying out regular fire drills in boarding time, which are properly recorded.

Premises and accommodation – toilet and washing facilities and maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23 and 25; NMS 5 and 6]

- 2.13 The school does not meet the all of the standards.
- 2.14 The school does not provide suitable showers for the use of pupils aged 11 or over who receive physical education. Those provided are not maintained in working order.

Premises and accommodation – lighting [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 27; NMS 5.4]

- 2.15 The school meets the standard and requirement.
- 2.16 The school has ensured that lighting in the boarding accommodation enables boarders to access toilet facilities safely at night.

Premises and accommodation – water [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28; EYFS 3.55]

- 2.17 The school does not meet the standards and requirements.
- 2.18 The school has ensured that the facilities in the junior school have an adequate supply of hot water; however, the temperature of the water at the point of use in the EYFS setting poses a potential scalding risk to users.

Premises and accommodation – boarding accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 30; NMS 5]

- 2.19 The school does not meet the standards.
- 2.20 The school has ensured that there is adequate lighting in the boarding accommodation to enable boarders to access toilet facilities at night.
- 2.21 However, it does not ensure that boarders' accommodation has appropriate separation from accommodation for adults. Boarders do not have washing facilities affording suitable privacy because those provided are not solely for their use.

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

- 2.22 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.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33; NMS 18; EYFS 3.75]

- 2.23 The school meets the standard and the requirements.

- 2.24 The school has a suitable policy which is implemented effectively, including compliant relating to boarding. The school investigates written complaints relating to the fulfilment of the EYFS requirements and notifies complainants of the outcomes of the investigation within 28 days.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34; NMS 13]

- 2.25 The school does not meet the standards.
- 2.26 The proprietor does not ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, including with regard to management of boarding, so that the other standards are consistently met and pupils' well-being is actively promoted. There has been no effective monitoring of the new leadership of boarding in the academic year up to the inspection. Not all records required under Appendix 2 of the NMS are kept. Fire and supervision records are now kept appropriately in boarding but records of training are not kept for all boarding staff.

3. Regulatory action points

3.1 The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11, NMS 15; EYFS 3.4 and 3.7

- Ensure that the arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders at the school have regard to the guidance given in KCSIE. In particular, ensure that any person working (employed or volunteering) with boarders, has a job description that accurately reflect their role, sufficient training and experience, including safeguarding training and induction training in boarding when newly appointed; that they receive regular reviews of boarding practice; and that boarders are at all times, including at night, under the responsibility of an identified member of staff who is suitably qualified and experienced [paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) and 8 (a) and (b); NMS 11.1, NMS 15.1, 15.3, 15.4 and 15.7].
- Ensure that the annual review of safeguarding is sufficiently rigorous so that the safeguarding procedures in all areas of the school meet statutory guidance [paragraphs 7(a) and (b) and 8(a) and (b); NMS 11.1; EYFS 3.4 and 3.7].
- Ensure that suitable accommodation and suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for all residential staff, that is appropriately separated from the accommodation and facilities provided for boarding pupils [NMS 15.9, and for the same reason paragraph 8(b)].

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, paragraph 11; NMS 6; EYFS 3.55

- Ensure that all hazardous substances are controlled adequately, in particular that all chemicals are stored securely within the science preparation room, including ensuring that flammable liquids are returned to the locked flammables cupboard promptly after use [paragraph 11; NMS 6.1; EYFS 3.55].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation, paragraphs 23 and 25; NMS 6

- Ensure that the showers provided outside of boarding areas for the use of pupils aged 11 or over who receive physical education are regularly checked to ensure they are maintained in working order [paragraphs 23(1)(c) and 25; NMS 6.2].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation, paragraph 28; EYFS 3.55

- Ensure that the temperature of the water at the point use in the EYFS setting does not pose a potential scalding risk to users [paragraph 28(1)(d); EYFS 3.55].

ISSR Part 5, Premises and accommodation, paragraph 30; NMS 5

- Ensure that boarder's accommodation has appropriate separation from accommodation for adults, specifically that pupils' washing facilities are solely for their use [paragraph 30; NMS 5.5].

ISSR Part 8, Quality of leadership and management, paragraph 34; NMS 13

- The proprietor must ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, including with regard to

management of boarding and the maintenance of records required under appendix 2 of the NMS, so that the other standards are consistently met and that the well-being of all pupils including boarders, is actively promoted [paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c); NMS 13.1, 13.3–13.5, 13.8 and for the same reason, paragraph 8(b)].

- Ensure that the proprietor regularly monitors the effectiveness of the leadership, and delivery of boarding and welfare provision in the school and takes appropriate action where necessary [NMS 13.1 and for the same reason paragraph 8(b)].

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. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.