



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Moorland School

October 2023

School's details

School name	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	info@moorlandschool.co.uk			
Head	Mrs Deborah Frost			
Proprietor	Mr Jonathan Harrison			
Age Range	0 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	293			
	Day pupils	257	Boarders	36
	EYFS	154	Infants	5
			Years 1 and 2	
	Juniors	23	Seniors	111
	Years 3 to 6			
Date of inspection	19 October 2023			

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 proprietor was previously the head of the school.
- 1.2 The school incorporates ballet and football academies. It includes a registered Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting. Boarders are accommodated in one of three houses. The school has 19 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom six have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Three pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspections were a regulatory compliance inspection in June 2021 and non-routine inspections in January, June and October 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.3 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 additional inspection on 4 and 13 October 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraphs 2 (curriculum) and 3 (teaching); EYFS 1.11 and 3.68	Met
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8; EYFS 3.7, 3.9, 3.10 and 3.12	Met
Part 3, paragraph 13 (first aid); EYFS 3.25	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); EYFS 3.29, 3.30 and 3.32	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); EYFS 3.65	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 19; EYFS 3.9, 3.10 and 3.12	Met
Part 5, paragraph 30 (boarding accommodation); NMS 4	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (provision of information); EYFS 3.69 to 3.74	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure); NMS 14; EYFS 3.75 and 3.76	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum and teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraphs 2 and 3; EYFS 3.68]

- 2.1 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.2 The school ensures that the curriculum and programme of activities enables all pupils to learn and make progress. In the EYFS, children experience activities which are appropriate to their stages of development. The school has suitable arrangements to identify pupils who have SEND and/or EAL. Teachers receive suitable training to enable them to take account of pupils' individual needs, including those with an EHC plan.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding and safeguarding of boarders [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8; EYFS 3.7, 3.9, 3.10 and 3.12]

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 standards and the requirements.
- 2.6 Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for the needs of pupils, including those of children in the EYFS and boarders.
- 2.7 Safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively to safeguard children at risk and those in particular need. Staff show effective understanding of their responsibilities, including with regard to child-on-child abuse. All behavioural issues and allegations of sexualised behaviour, racism or bullying, are treated as potential safeguarding concerns and addressed effectively.
- 2.8 Child protection records are held securely and with suitable confidentiality. This enables welfare considerations for individual pupils to be identified consistently and acted upon, and the school to be able to identify patterns of concern. In discussions, staff responses confirmed that they recognise the vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online and the school has appropriate controls of the use of technology.
- 2.9 Records show that the school communicates and refers concerns effectively, including to pertinent external agencies when appropriate. The safeguarding team seeks advice when necessary. Pupils reported in discussion that they feel safe in school. They said that if any concerns arise, they can report them and felt confident they would receive a response and action would be taken where needed. Staff in the EYFS know the children well and are confident that they will notice any changes in behaviour or signs of potential injury which may indicate a safeguarding concern. Records of safeguarding, which are suitably thorough, confirm that any concerns are dealt with swiftly and appropriately. The school liaises appropriately with parents about any safeguarding concerns.
- 2.10 The safeguarding policy gives contact details as required for local safeguarding partners. Suitable recruitment procedures for staff are outlined in the safeguarding policy. The school now ensures that all recruitment checks, including obtaining suitable references, are carried out for all staff before they begin work. Staff files contain accurate information to evidence that the required recruitment checks have been completed.

- 2.11 The training for those with specific safeguarding responsibilities, including the proprietor, is in line with local requirements and statutory advice and is up to date. Staff confirmed that they are trained regularly. There are comprehensive records of face to face and online training which confirm suitable courses have been completed. Staff demonstrate effective knowledge of safeguarding procedures, including most recent changes to statutory guidance. They are aware of how to listen to children and report any concerns that they have.
- 2.12 Leaders and staff demonstrate appropriate awareness of the staff code of conduct, including the low-level concerns policy and safeguarding procedures, and are confident to use them. They have a suitable knowledge of the thresholds for reporting issues or incidents.
- 2.13 Suitable arrangements for handling allegations against staff or senior leaders, and potential misconduct, are included in safeguarding procedures; they include seeking immediate advice from the local authority designated safeguarding officer (LADO). The school understands its role in reporting any person to relevant regulatory bodies if circumstances require it.
- 2.14 The proprietor has appropriate expertise and maintains a close working contact with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). The proprietor is suitably pro-active in the school with regards to monitoring safeguarding policies and procedures, including through arrangements for an annual review.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – first aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13; EYFS 3.25]

- 2.15 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.16 The school now has appropriate arrangements for first aid. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that all staff in the EYFS setting, including all newly qualified entrants to the early years workforce who completed a level 2 and/or level 3 qualification on or after 30 June 2016, have gained either a full paediatric first aid (PFA) or an emergency PFA certificate within three months of starting work.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; EYFS 3.29, 3.30 and 3.32]

- 2.17 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.18 Pupils are properly supervised by appropriately qualified and trained staff. Since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that there are suitable ratios of staff to children in the EYFS, in particular where children are aged under two. They have ensured that staff counted in their ratios are sufficiently qualified to be included and have the required paediatric first aid training.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; EYFS 3.65]

- 2.19 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.20 The school has a suitable risk assessment policy, and staff conduct appropriate risk assessments for each area of the school and for the wellbeing of pupils with particular needs, in particular in the EYFS setting. In the EYFS, staff conduct effective daily checks to ensure that any areas that present a potential hazard are made safe before children arrive. Systems are embedded effectively enough to ensure that senior managers are informed when staff are absent. Suitably prompt action is taken to enable the required ratios to be maintained across the setting.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19; EYFS 3.9, 3.10 and 3.12]

- 2.21 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.22 The school makes appropriate checks before appointment to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors. These include checks of the person's identity, their medical fitness, their right to work in the UK, their qualifications, an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, an overseas check if needed, a check against the barred list, and a check against the list of those prohibited from teaching and/or management if relevant. Where the school uses supply staff, confirmation is now received from the employment agency that all recruitment checks, including identity, barred list, prohibition from management, relevant qualifications, right to work in UK and prohibition from teaching have been made to the extent relevant to that person. The school receives a copy of the person's DBS and checks their identity. The register of appointment is kept as required, detailing whether the appointments have been carried out and, if so, on which date. The proprietor monitors the process regularly and effectively. Since the previous inspection the school has ensured that staff files and the register of appointments are available for inspection, on the school site, at all times.

Boarding accommodation and provision and preparation of food and drinks for boarders [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 30; NMS 4 and 6]

- 2.23 The school meets the standards.
- 2.24 The school provides good quality living and sleeping accommodation for boarders. Sufficient toilet and washing facilities, including hot showers, are readily accessible from their sleeping accommodation. Boarders are provided with nutritious main meals and they are able to prepare snacks in suitably hygienic areas in the boarding houses. Drinking water is available at all times.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32; EYFS 3.69–3.74]

- 2.25 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.26 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.
- 2.27 During the inspection, the school ensured that all information requested in connection with the inspection was readily available for inspectors.
- 2.28 All required information is provided to parents of children in the EYFS and all required records relating to individual children are retained.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33; NMS 14; EYFS 3.75, 3.76]

- 2.29 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.30 The school's complaints procedure is available on the school website. It provides for complaints and concerns to be considered on an informal basis; for the establishment of a formal procedure for a complaint to be made in writing; for a hearing before a panel which includes an independent member and allows for a parent to be accompanied; for the panel to make findings and recommendations; and for a confidential record to be kept of findings. Records of complaints are kept as required and identify where any complaint relates to boarding. These show that the school follows its own policy

appropriately, in particular with regard to giving timely responses. Specific requirements with regard to the EYFS are met.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34; NMS 2]

2.31 The school meets the standard.

2.32 The school has ensured that the action plan required following the previous inspection has been implemented fully. The proprietor and senior leaders now demonstrate the good skills and knowledge required to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. They now ensure that the other standards are met consistently. This includes those ensuring the welfare, health and safety of children in the EYFS. Leaders and managers actively promote the wellbeing of pupils, including boarders.

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 the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 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. They visited different areas of the school and talked with children and a group of boarders. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.