



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Oakham School

May 2022

School's details

School name	Oakham School			
DfE number	857/6000			
Registered charity number	1131425			
Address	Oakham School Chapel Close Oakham Rutland LE15 6DT			
Telephone number	01572 758500			
Email address	enquiries@oakham.rutland.sch.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Henry Price			
Chair of governors	Professor Neil Gorman			
Age Range	10 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	1045			
	Day pupils	528	Boarders	517
	Lower School	201	Middle School	477
	Upper School	367		
Date of visit	6 May 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Oakham School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school located in Oakham, Rutland. It is a registered charity, whose trustees provide the governance of the school. The nine boarding houses accommodate pupils from Year 7 upwards and are located near the teaching accommodation in the centre of Oakham. The school has 188 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care plan. There are 123 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The previous inspection was an additional inspection which took place on 13 December 2021.

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 additional visit of December 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 6	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 15	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 6	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff); NMS 14	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

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

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 standards.
- 2.4 Suitable measures are in place to ensure the safeguarding of the pupils, through effective implementation of the policy. The school responds appropriately to safeguarding concerns about pupils and to allegations about inappropriate behaviour on the part of adults working in the school. School leaders seek advice from external agencies promptly when concerns arise, and now make timely referrals, including in cases relating to sexual assault and child-on-child abuse. Pupils, including boarders, are confident that there are trusted adults in school with whom they can share their concerns, that they are listened to when they express concerns, and that action is taken. Inspection evidence supports this view. Staff, including safeguarding leaders, are trained as required. Recent training in how to respond to reports of child-on-child abuse and the importance of reporting low level concerns about adults in school are clearly understood by staff. The particular vulnerabilities of pupils with SEND are recognised and the school responds effectively to concerns regarding pupils' mental health. Arrangements are in place to teach pupils how to keep safe online and to keep them safe when using the internet in school. Appropriate procedures are implemented for the recruitment of staff. The trustees ensure proper oversight of safeguarding through regular reports to the board and an annual review of policy and practice.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standards.
- 2.6 A suitable policy is in place to promote the safety of pupils, staff and visitors. A safe place is provided in the school car park for pupils to wait to be collected by their parents at the end of the school day. The school has made appropriate arrangements to ensure the safety of pupils at the end of the school day, and whilst awaiting collection by parents or carers, including when there is any delay in their being picked up.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 15]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 Suitable arrangements are in place for the supervision of pupils. The school has strengthened its procedures when unexpected changes in arrangements for after-school activities occur. Provision is in place for pupils to be supervised whilst awaiting collection from school in such circumstances.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 6]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.

- 2.10 An appropriate risk assessment policy is in place. The school takes suitable measures to assess and minimise the risks posed by moving vehicles throughout the school site and those arising from the cancellation of planned activities.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 14]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.

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

- 2.13 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; NMS 13]

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

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 the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, 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 met with the chair of trustees. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.