



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Saint Felix School

March 2020



School's details

School	Saint Felix School			
DfE number	935/6007			
Registered charity number	310482			
Address	Saint Felix School Halesworth Road Reydon Suffolk IP18 6SD			
Telephone number	01502 722175			
Email address	schooladmin@stfelix.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr James Harrison			
Chair of governors	Dr John Kelly			
Age range	2 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	327			
	Day pupils	254	Boarders	73
	EYFS	40	Juniors	75
	Seniors	158	Sixth Form	54
Date of visit	16 March 2020			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Saint Felix School is a co-educational boarding and day school for pupils between the ages of two and eighteen years. Situated in Reydon, on the outskirts of Southwold in Suffolk, it is overseen by a governing body. Boarding provision is available from the age of nine, with boarders accommodated in one of three houses. The school has 61 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom eight have an education, health and care plan. Also, 48 pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was an additional inspection in September 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 additional inspection on 10 September 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8 (welfare, health and safety of pupils); NMS 11	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors); NMS 14	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (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 Procedures are in place to support and listen to pupils in need so that they receive early help when necessary. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) has formed effective links with external agencies and the school seeks advice promptly when required, including if there are concerns about staff behaviour. Records are appropriately maintained and stored confidentially. Staff have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children and know that they can make a direct referral to external agencies if necessary. They are also clear about how to report any concerns they may have regarding other staff members. On joining the school, new members of staff receive appropriate induction, which includes guidance on the most recent statutory documentation. The DSL and deputy DSLs have the appropriate levels of up-to-date, advanced training required for their roles. The DSL also ensures that all staff receive regular formal training and informal updates on safeguarding practice. Records of this training show that the training for all staff is up to date. The governor responsible for safeguarding supports the DSL through regular visits to the school, during which safeguarding is routinely reviewed. An annual review of safeguarding takes place each autumn term, which ensures that the policy has regard to the most up-to-date statutory guidance, incorporating the current Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), and that its implementation is monitored, reviewed and strengthened if required.
- 2.5 The school has a suitable safer recruitment policy, which is implemented effectively, in line with the requirements relating to pre-employment checks as outlined in KCSIE. In particular, the school ensures that at least two references are obtained for each member of staff before they take up their appointment and that a check is made to ensure they are not barred from regulated activity. Appropriate filtering systems are in place for the use of technology. In interview, pupils demonstrated a clear awareness of the dangers of social media and use of the internet. They are confident they can share any concerns they might have with staff and that these would be promptly addressed. They feel safe, secure and well supported by their teachers, ancillary staff and senior leaders.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and records them correctly on the single central register of appointments (SCR). The school has put in place a suitable written agreement with any person over the age of sixteen not employed by the school but living on the same premises as boarders.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.8 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]

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 Governors ensure that those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and that they fulfil their responsibilities so that the independent school standards are met consistently. The school has successfully addressed all of the points included in the action plan submitted following the previous inspection. Procedures to promote the well-being of pupils are systematic and effective.

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