



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Winchester College

September 2022

School's details

School name	Winchester College			
DfE number	850/6037			
Registered charity number	1139000			
Address	College Street Winchester Hampshire SO23 9NA			
Telephone number	01962 621100			
Email address	information@wincoll.ac.uk			
Headmaster	Dr Timothy Hands			
Chair of governors	Sir Richard Stagg			
Age Range	13 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	714			
	Day pupils	20	Boarders	694
	Seniors	408	Sixth Form	306
Date of inspection	20 September 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Winchester College is a day and boarding school. Male pupils are admitted from the age of 13 and female pupils enter in Year 12. Scholars are accommodated in the original school buildings. A further ten boarding houses accommodate other pupils. Most of these are situated near, though outside, the original school campus. Some also include day pupils. A separate day house for female pupils provides changing and study accommodation. Members of the school's governing body are also the trustees of the original foundation. The school has 32 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom one has an education, health and care plan. There are 122 pupils who speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was an additional inspection in December 2019.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to introduce male and female day pupils from year 12 and increase pupil numbers to 740. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs). Boarding was not inspected.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 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.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils, are implemented effectively. The school ensures a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils, including male and female day pupils, confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn to for support. They understand how to keep themselves and others safe, including when online. Pupils receive a response when they express concerns, and appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding. Staff understand the different types of child-on-child abuse.
- 2.5 Senior leaders communicate concerns to relevant outside agencies effectively. They take prompt action where concerns are raised, or incidents occur. All staff, including those in positions of responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures. Interviews with staff and leaders confirm they fully understand their role in safeguarding. In particular, they understand the need to identify, report and investigate potential abuse, including child-on-child abuse, sexual harassment and concerns expressed at a low level. The safeguarding policy contains suitable guidance about reporting low-level concerns about adults working in the school and this is understood by staff. Records show that staff report any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate person in a timely fashion. Safeguarding is effectively managed. Suitable arrangements to handle allegations against adults working with pupils are implemented effectively. There is effective liaison with external agencies including statutory bodies which regulate teaching. 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 governors maintain appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures, completing sufficiently regular reviews of safeguarding policy and practice effectively. Governors are appropriately trained in safeguarding. The safeguarding team are sufficient in number and expertise to support effective safeguarding for male and female day pupils within the school community and for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The governors and senior leaders ensure that the written health and safety policy is implemented effectively to ensure compliance with the relevant health and safety laws. The policy and related materials provide staff with suitable guidance on health and safety matters. Appropriate records are kept of relevant health and safety checks. This includes those completed for the newly refurbished house which accommodates female day pupils. Matters of health and safety are regularly reviewed and reported to the governors for further review. The newly refurbished premises meet relevant health and safety requirements.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The governors ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. An appropriate fire risk assessment has been undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The school has implemented the required actions suitably and keeps the assessment under review. There are appropriately trained competent persons on site and a suitable number of staff are trained effectively to support fire evacuation procedures. Records show fire evacuations take place regularly, pupils confirm they understand the correct procedures. Records show appropriate installation and maintenance of fire detection and firefighting equipment, including in the newly developed and refurbished part of the school adapted for female day pupils.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Discussions with pupils and staff, together with observations around the school, confirm that appropriate numbers of staff are suitably deployed to ensure adequate supervision of pupils. These numbers are sufficient for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy. The school has an effective understanding of risk assessment. Assessments of risk have been completed for the introduction of female pupils and for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. They exist for all relevant aspects of the school premises, including the day house for female pupils.

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

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

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23–29]

- 2.17 The school meets the standards.
- 2.18 The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. There are suitable, gender-segregated toilet facilities, including facilities for female pupils in their day house and elsewhere. The school provides appropriate accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils and for the short-term care of sick pupils. This includes appropriately separate accommodation for female pupils. The school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is ensured. In discussions, staff and pupils confirmed that, in their experience, all matters of maintenance are dealt with satisfactorily and swiftly. The acoustic conditions of the school facilities and internal and external lighting are suitable. Suitable drinking water facilities, clearly marked as such, are provided. The school provides suitable outdoor space for pupils' physical education and for their recreation. Plans, and discussion with senior leaders show that

all aspects of the school premises and accommodation are suitable in terms of provision for day pupils. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increased number of pupils and the admission of male and female day pupils.

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

2.19 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/provided to parents on request, as the school has no website.

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

2.20 The school meets the standard.

2.21 The governors ensure that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the educational well-being of the pupils. Suitable planning for the introduction of male and female day pupils into the school and an increase in pupil numbers has been executed effectively. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to introduce male and female day pupils into Year 12 is granted together with the proposed increase in total pupil numbers to 740. The governors have made suitable arrangements to ensure that suitable health and safety, fire safety and risk assessment procedures are implemented. This includes in the recently refurbished areas designated to accommodate the introduction of female pupils. The premises, accommodation and staffing are suitably resourced and maintained to meet the needs of the number and age range of pupils.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met a governor. She visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Vivien Sergeant

Reporting inspector