



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Sompting Abbotts School

January 2020



School's details

School	Sompting Abbots School			
DfE number	938/6125			
Address	Sompting Abbots School Church Lane Sompting Lancing West Sussex BN15 0AZ			
Telephone number	01903 235960			
Email address	headmaster@somptingabbotts.org.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Stuart Douch			
Proprietor	Mrs P Sinclair			
Age range	2 to 13			
Number of pupils on roll	107			
	EYFS	24	Juniors	66
	Seniors	17		
Date of visit	27 January 2020			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Sompting Abbotts School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged between two and thirteen years located in West Sussex. The school has been owned and administered by three generations of the same family since 1946. Family members act as principal, bursar and executive director. The school has identified 15 pupils as requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. Two pupils have an educational health and care plan, and English is an additional language for four pupils.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an announced/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 Focus Compliance Inspection in March 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.6, 3.9 and 3.14	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff); EYFS 3.9 and 3.12	Met
Part 5, paragraph 25 (premises and accommodation); EYFS 3.4 and 3.62	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; EYFS 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, and 3.14]

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. The policy now identifies a board level lead for safeguarding and includes all appropriate content identified in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) September 2019.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively in line with the most up-to-date statutory guidance and provide appropriate support for pupils' needs. All staff have received training, in person and on-line, in recent changes to regulatory guidance and on-line safety. New staff receive comprehensive induction training to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities, the staff code of conduct, including whistleblowing arrangements and the acceptable use of technology, as well as their responsibility for children missing education and the behaviour policy. All staff have read Part 1 and Annex A of KCSIE as required. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles and have appropriate levels of training, which is in line with local procedures and a record is kept of the training completed. The DSL regularly provides informal updates on any changes to safeguarding policy and its implementation. The school has a good relationship with the local authority's safeguarding team and always seeks informal advice before taking action. The proprietor has undertaken appropriate training and now provides good support for the designated safeguarding staff and meets with them regularly to ensure that arrangements are secure.
- 2.5 Staff demonstrate that they have a strong understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, including knowledge of the staff code of conduct and appropriate use of mobile devices. They understand that they can make a referral themselves to the local authority if they have concerns. They recognise the importance of 'early help' strategies, know how to report any concerns about pupils or other staff, and understand that any concerns about the headmaster are reported to the proprietor or the LADO directly. Appropriately detailed records for safeguarding concerns are maintained, which are monitored by the DSL, deputy DSL and the proprietor. These show appropriate and timely liaison with both parents and local agencies. The proprietor undertakes an annual review of safeguarding arrangements in line with the local authority's process and, where appropriate, takes appropriate action to improve the structures in place.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21; EYFS 3.9 and 3.12]

- 2.6 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.7 The school now implements the correct procedures for the recruitment of all new staff, supply staff, volunteers and proprietors before they begin work at the school. The process is correctly documented in the recruitment policy and other allied policies. Staff files are well maintained and contain all the required information, which is cross-referenced on a checklist within each file. The procedures for recording checks on the single central register of appointments (SCR) have been revised and now demonstrate the accurate recording of all required staff recruitment checks. Since the previous inspection visit, the proprietor has employed a compliance analyst who regularly monitors safer recruitment procedures, which includes checking the SCR for accuracy.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25; EYFS 3.4 and 3.62]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.9 The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety and all security concerns identified at the time of the previous visit have been addressed successfully.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards and the requirements.
- 2.11 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]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard
- The proprietor and senior leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. A thorough process of review, the recruitment of new staff with specific skills and as a programme of training for staff and proprietors has ensured that the school now meets the standards and actively promotes pupils' well-being.

3. Regulatory action points

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