



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

More House School

November 2020



School's details

School	More House School			
DfE number	207/6202			
Registered charity number	312737			
Address	More House School 22-24 Pont Street Chelsea London SW1X 0AA			
Telephone number	020 7235 2855			
Email address	office@morehouse.org.uk			
Co-Heads	Mrs Amanda Leach Mr Michael Keeley			
Chair of governors	Mr James Fyfe			
Age range	11 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	168			
	Seniors	128	Sixth Form	40
Date of visit	2 November 2020			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 More House, founded in 1952 by the Canonesses of St Augustine, is registered as a single-sex day school for female pupils aged between 11 and 18 years. Its ethos is based on the traditions of the Roman Catholic church and it welcomes pupils of all faiths or none. It moved to its present premises in Knightsbridge in 1971, at which point governance became the responsibility of the trustees of the More House Trust. The school has 70 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom 2 have an education, health and care plan, and 45 pupils who speak English as an additional language.

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 focused compliance inspection on 26 November 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 10 (bullying)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership in and management of schools)	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 at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 Records show that the school acts in the best interests of the child, including in-school provision for listening to children, providing a response, and for early help. Staff understand the up-to-date definitions of abuse in the safeguarding policy, recognising the particular vulnerabilities of those with SEND, including to peer-on-peer abuse. During the period when attendance at school was prevented by COVID-19, staff monitored pupils' well-being through daily contact with pupils online. Further support was given to pupils who were at risk from extended periods away from school. The school implements its procedures for dealing with and referring concerns about children in need and/or at risk effectively. It acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures and maintains effective links with the local safeguarding partners. Staff have a clear understanding of the school's code of conduct and have the confidence to use the whistleblowing procedures. The safeguarding of pupil's welfare is supported by a comprehensive recruitment policy and clear arrangements for handling allegations of abuse against members of staff, supply staff, volunteers and the co-heads, including reporting to regulatory bodies if circumstances require it.
- 2.5 Safeguarding is effectively managed. Training for the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), deputies (DDSLs) and staff is up to date and follows local requirements. The board receives reports on safeguarding at each meeting and reviews the school's child protection policies and procedures annually. Pupils reported that they feel safe in school and had been guided on how to keep safe during travel to school and online.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9] and for the same reason, bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 The school effectively implements its policies. Good behaviour is promoted, and bullying is prevented as far as is possible. Detailed recording enables all pastoral concerns to be logged for each pupil. All incidents of poor behaviour or conflict between pupils are considered as potential bullying and/or safeguarding issues, and trends analysed. Incidents are reported quickly and in detail, and evidence obtained impartially from those involved. Records show that parents are involved at an early stage and situations are closely monitored. Discreet action is taken, including support for alleged victims and perpetrators. The physical and mental health of pupils involved is given a high priority. Any known friendship issues are immediately investigated, and solutions sought. Pupils receive guidance and information on relationship issues throughout their time at the school, and its effectiveness is regularly evaluated. Parents and carers are invited to a comprehensive series of talks on topics such as teenage resilience, social media, and sex and relationship education.

- 2.8 An annual review of behaviour and bullying incidents, including questionnaires to pupils, is part of the annual review of safeguarding arrangements, and the detail and outcomes are reported to governors as part of the annual safeguarding report.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff. The geography of the school site means that pupils are rarely out of sight of staff, and pupils confirm that staff are always available.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school's recruitment policy is now effectively implemented to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Checks against those barred from working with children or where relevant those prohibited from teaching or the management of schools are completed on all relevant staff and governors before they commence work or take up their positions. The school secures at least two satisfactory references and carries out a check of employment history on all staff, including those who are self-employed, and confirms medical fitness, before appointment. When the results of a disclosure and barring list check are not received before the start date, all other relevant checks and a separate barred list are completed, and the risk of work commencing is assessed.

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]

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The school's leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their roles and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. Leaders actively promote the well-being of pupils and have sustained that active promotion through the period when attendance at school was prevented by COVID-19. The leadership has reviewed all areas of recruitment since the previous inspection and improved any deficiencies. The governors ensure that all areas of school life are monitored so that the independent school standards continue to be met.

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 no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the co-heads, senior leaders and other members of staff and spoke with the chair of governors. They talked with groups of pupils, and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.