



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report

St Catherine's School, Twickenham

September 2019



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School's Details

School	St Catherine's School			
DfE number	318/6008			
Registered charity number	1014651			
Address	St Catherine's School Cross Deep Twickenham Middlesex TW1 4QJ			
Telephone number	020 88912898			
Email address	info@stcatherineschool.co.uk			
Head	Mrs Johneen McPherson			
Chair of governors	Mr Edward Sparrow			
Age range	3 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	420			
	EYFS	6	Juniors	95
	Seniors	294	Sixth Form	25
Inspection dates	18 to 19 September 2019			

1. Background Information

About the school

- 1.1 St Catherine's School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 3 to 18. It is registered as a single sex school for female pupils. The school was, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1914 and moved to the current site in 1919. The school is a charitable educational trust and in 1992 it was transferred to the management of a lay governing body with a board of nine governors as trustees. The current head took up her post in September 2018

What the school seeks to do

- 1.2 The school aims that every pupil is valued, is a member of a happy thriving community, is inspired to achieve academic excellence, and is given a wide range of opportunities to develop her talent. It seeks to ensure that every pupil is prepared for the challenges of adult life and is helped to understand and fulfil her responsibilities to self, family and society.

About the pupils

- 1.3 The majority of the pupils are drawn from professional families within a 10 mile radius of the school. Nationally standardised test data provided by the school indicate that the ability of the pupils in the junior and senior schools is above average, and of the sixth form pupils is broadly average. The school has identified 93 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) which includes dyslexia and difficulties with processing speed and numeracy, 71 of whom receive additional specialist help. Two pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language for one pupil who receives additional support. The school uses data to identify most able pupils in its population and the curriculum is modified for them.

2. Regulatory Compliance Inspection

Preface

The registration authority for independent schools is the Department for Education (DfE), which directs inspection according to a specified frequency or at any time where the DfE has particular concerns about a school. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and reporting on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards ('the standards') in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Accordingly, inspection records whether the school meets each of these standards, which are arranged in eight Parts, each of which is divided into separate paragraphs. The inspection of schools that have early years settings not requiring registration similarly records whether the school complies with key provisions of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework. Additionally, the inspection reports on the school's accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the compliance action points set out in the school's most recent statutory inspection.

All association independent schools will have an inspection within three years from April 2016, in accordance with the Framework and DfE requirements. The inspection may be of COMPLIANCE ONLY or a combined inspection of EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE depending on a number of factors, including findings from their most recent inspection. Schools judged not to meet the standards may also be subject to a progress monitoring visit before their next routine inspection. The progress monitoring visit will judge whether the school has taken the necessary action to meet any un-met standards identified at their previous inspection.

The inspection was also carried out under the arrangements of the ISC Associations for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of their membership.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school's compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated in the relevant section of the report and the school is required to take the actions specified.

Inspections do not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as: an exhaustive health and safety audit; compliance with data protection requirements; an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features; contractual arrangements with parents; an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Inspectors may be aware of individual safeguarding concerns, allegations and complaints as part of the inspection process. Such matters will not usually be referred to specifically in published reports in this document but will have been considered by the team in reaching its judgements.

Links to the full regulations and requirements can be found here: [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#).

Key findings

- 2.1 The school does not meet all of the required standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, and associated requirements, and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

PART 1 – Quality of education provided

- 2.2 In the junior school, the school uses its own framework to determine attainment, instead of the national framework.
- 2.3 At GCSE in the years 2016 to 2018, performance has been above the national average for maintained schools.
- 2.4 In the sixth form, A-level results in the years 2016 to 2018 have been above the national average for sixth formers in maintained schools.
- 2.5 The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.
- 2.6 The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.**

PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- 2.7 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.
- 2.8 The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.**

PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 2.9 Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.
- 2.10 Most arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. However, the school has not always carried out a check of the barred list before staff commence working at the school.
- 2.11 The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 6 and 9-16, the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met but those in paragraph 7(a) and(b) [safeguarding] are not met.**

Action point 1

- the school must ensure that it carries out a check of the barred list before staff commence working at the school [paragraph 7(a) and (b), EYFS 3.9].

PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- 2.12 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of supply staff and proprietor.
- 2.13 The school has not always ensured that enhanced criminal record checks are applied for or checked identity before staff commence working at the school. The single central register is not kept as required.
- 2.14 The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school in paragraphs 19 and 20 are met but those in paragraph 18(2)(d) and 18(3) [suitability of staff] and 21(1) and 21(6) [single central register of appointments] are not met.**

Action point 2

- **the school must ensure that enhanced criminal record checks are applied for and identity is checked before staff commence working at the school [paragraphs 18 (2)(d) and 18(3), EYFS 3.9 and 3.11].**

Action point 3

- **the school must ensure that the single central register of appointments is kept as required. In particular, it must ensure that all required checks on governors are recorded [paragraphs 21(1) and 21(6), EYFS 3.12].**

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 2.15 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.16 The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] are met.**

PART 6 – Provision of information

- 2.17 A range of information is variously published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. These include details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for any with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. They also include particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.
- 2.18 The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.**

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

2.19 Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

2.20 The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.21 The proprietor does not always ensure that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils. In particular, inconsistencies and delays in recruitment checks have resulted in other standards not being met.

2.22 The standard relating to leadership and management of the school in paragraph 34 is not met.

Action point 4

- **the school must ensure that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils [paragraphs 34 (1)(a), (b) and (c)].**

3. Inspection Evidence

- 3.1 The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff and with two governors including the chair of governors, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended registration. Inspectors visited the facilities for the youngest pupils, together with the learning support and educational resource areas. The responses of parents, staff and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mrs Linda Smallwood

Reporting inspector

Mr Edward Bond

Compliance team inspector (Senior master, HMC school)