



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Material Change Visit

Spring Grove School

May 2022

School's details

School name	Spring Grove School			
DfE number	886/6045			
Registered charity number	1099823			
Address	Spring Grove School Harville Road Wye Ashford Kent TN25 5EZ			
Telephone number	01233 812337			
Email address	office@springgroveschool.co.uk			
Headteacher	Mrs Therésa Jaggard			
Chair of governors	Mrs Dawne Sweetland			
Age Range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	230			
	EYFS	91	Years 1 and 2	46
	Years 3 to 6	93		
Date of visit	20 May 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Spring Grove School is an independent co-educational day school, situated in the Wye, between Ashford and Canterbury. The school is a charitable trust, administered by a board of governors. It includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting. The school has 15 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom one has an education, health and care plan. Thirty pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in June 2018.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an announced material change visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase its capacity to 245 pupils. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	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, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23–29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure)	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 at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school implements its safeguarding policy effectively, including in the EYFS. Staff, including safeguarding leaders, are trained as required, and demonstrate appropriate understanding of their training, including with regard to child-on-child abuse. Pupils are confident that there are adults in school in whom they can confide, and their concerns are dealt with swiftly when they arise. They have a secure understanding of how to stay safe online. The school liaises effectively with external agencies and parents in order to promote pupils' safeguarding when required. The school is aware of the vulnerability of pupils with SEND and responds appropriately to concerns about pupils' mental health. Staff demonstrate a secure understanding of the code of conduct and whistleblowing procedures and are confident to report lower-level concerns about the behaviour of adults in the school to senior leaders. More serious allegations against members of staff in the school have been dealt with appropriately in consultation with external agencies. Governors provide appropriate oversight, including through a suitable annual review of safeguarding. The current arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure the health and safety of the pupils, staff, and visitors to the school through the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy. These arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.7 The school is likely to meet the standards.
- 2.8 Suitable arrangements are in place to ensure that the school meets the requirements. The school has considered the means by which these will continue to be met when the additional proposed building is constructed and has planned for an appropriate fire risk assessment of the new building to be undertaken. The arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school ensures that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff, including in the EYFS. These arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.11 The school is likely to meet the standard.
- 2.12 The school has drawn up and implemented a suitable risk assessment policy. Appropriate action has been taken to reduce the risks that are identified and to consider those that may be posed during and after the construction of the proposed additional building. The arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. The proposed material change will not necessitate the recruitment of additional members of staff. These arrangements are therefore suitable for the proposed material change.

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

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical 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. The school plans to construct additional classroom space, but the current premises and accommodation are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.17 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.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 Parental complaints are handled effectively. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken and whether or not a complaint is successful. These arrangements are suitable for the additional number of pupils proposed by the school.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. Governors and school leaders have considered the arrangements required for the proposed additional pupils and have taken steps to ensure that the other standards are likely to continue to be met should the material change be approved.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 It is recommended that the material change be approved. The school's current provision is suitable for the proposed additional number of pupils, although an additional teaching place is planned to allow the school additional flexibility in its use of different rooms. The additional pupils will enter the current classes, allowing smaller classes to grow in size. Arrangements currently in place are sufficient to ensure the standards are likely to be met in most areas without the need for adjustments to be made should the material change be approved. The school has given appropriate consideration to the actions required to ensure that the standards regarding fire safety and risk assessment will continue to be met when the additional classrooms are built. Evidence indicates that the school is likely to continue to meet the standards should the material change be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

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