



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

St Martin's Preparatory School

November 2023

School's details

School	St Martin's Preparatory School			
DfE number	812/6001			
Address	St Martin's Preparatory School 63 Bargate Grimsby North East Lincolnshire DN34 5AA			
Telephone number	01472 878907			
Email address	secretary@stmartinsprep.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Joel Jackson			
Chair of proprietors	Mr Ali Khan			
Proprietor	Alpha Schools Ltd			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	204			
	Pre-prep	38	Prep	166
Date of inspection	1 November 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Martin's Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school located in a residential area of Grimsby. The school is owned and governed by Alpha Schools Ltd.; operational management is delegated to the head. The school comprises the pre-prep for children aged two to four years, which incorporates an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting, and the prep for pupils aged four to eleven. The school has 27 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. One pupil has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 36 pupils. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection 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 6 October 2022. The inspection 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 inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7; EYFS 3.4, 3.7, 3.9 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11; EYFS 3.66, 3.67 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16; EYFS 3.65 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	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, 3.7, 3.9]

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 so as to ensure the safeguarding of the pupils.
- 2.5 The school has implemented its action plan effectively. The required checks of references, barred list and prohibition from teaching are carried out in a timely manner before staff begin work at the school. Appropriate arrangements are in place for those occasions when the result of a check submitted to the Disclosure and Barring Service is not received before this date. The school has appointed additional staff with appropriate skills and experience to the safeguarding leadership team so as to ensure that those with responsibility for safeguarding have sufficient time to fulfil their roles effectively.
- 2.6 Staff, including those with safeguarding and recruitment responsibilities are suitably trained. Pupils are confident to report their concerns to adults in the school. The school responds to concerns about pupils appropriately, including liaison with parents and external agencies. Appropriate measures are in place to manage concerns relating to child-on-child abuse. Staff recognise and respond sensitively to pupils' SEND and mental health needs when listening to their concerns. They understand the importance of adhering to the staff code of conduct and of reporting concerns should they arise. Suitable arrangements are in place for the management of allegations regarding adults working in the school. The school is diligent in ensuring that documentation relating to pupils' safeguarding history is provided to destination schools as required.
- 2.7 Governors maintain effective oversight through regular reports from school leaders and through an annual review of safeguarding policy and procedures.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The school implements its health and safety policy effectively including regular checks of legionella and water, and testing of electrical equipment.
- 2.10 Minibus drivers, who transport pupils during the school day, undertake suitable training and medical checks. The school does not currently provide a minibus service for pupils travelling between home and school.

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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.

- 2.12 The school meets the requirements of the standard through the effective implementation of its fire risk management policy. Checks of fire alarms and other fire-prevention equipment are carried out regularly, as are fire drills. The school has ensured that a suitable fire risk assessment is in place and that any work identified as necessary is carried out promptly.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 Leaders ensure the effective implementation of an appropriate written policy through the drawing up of suitable risk assessments, daily checks and weekly site audits. The school has reviewed its risk assessment procedures since the previous inspection. Leaders have introduced a new risk assessment format which ensures the systematic consideration of potential risks and how they may be minimised. Staff have been trained effectively in the assessment of risk and in the implementation of the new policy and are confident to put the new systems into practice.
- 2.15 Appropriate risk assessments are in place for the safety and supervision of pupils travelling by school minibus during the school day and on educational visits. Required risk assessments are carried out effectively in the EYFS, including daily checks of rooms and equipment and any arrangements for trips out of school. Leaders have prepared risk assessments and supporting protocols in preparation for the re-introduction of transport between home and school for pupils in Years 1 to 6.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standards.
- 2.17 The school undertakes the required checks on staff before they begin work in the school. An accurate record of these is maintained on the single central register of appointments. Since the previous inspection, governors have ensured effective oversight of recruitment through termly checks of the register and staff personnel files.

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

- 2.18 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]

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 The school has implemented its action plan effectively so that the other standards are met consistently. Leaders have undertaken a review of procedures and implemented the required changes effectively. Regular discussions between the head and the proprietor have enabled oversight of this process. The appointment of additional members of staff with appropriate skills has contributed positively to the process of review and the implementation of next steps.
- 2.21 The proprietor supports the school in ensuring the standards are met through the provision of policies in areas such as safeguarding, health and safety and risk assessment. These do not consistently reflect the specific context of the school but are implemented effectively by school leaders to ensure that the standards which were the focus of the inspection are met.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, 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 inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a member of the governing body. They visited different areas of the school and talked with a group of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.