



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

New Forest Small School

April 2023

School's details

School	New Forest Small School			
DfE number	850/6075			
Address	New Forest Small School 1 Southampton Road Lyndhurst Hampshire SO43 7BU			
Telephone number	02380 284415			
Email address	nfss@newforestsmallschool.com			
Headteacher	Mr Nicholas Alp			
Proprietor	Mr Nicholas Alp			
Age range	3 to 16			
Number of pupils on roll	71			
	Kinder- garten	12	Primary	32
	Secondary	27		
Date of inspection	25 April 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 New Forest Small School is an independent co-educational day school. The school was founded in 1994 by the sole proprietor and his wife. The school comprises kindergarten, a non-registered setting for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS); primary, for pupils aged 5 to 11 years; and secondary, for pupils aged 11 to 16 years. Six pupils require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), all of whom have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Two pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection, which took place in September 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 regulatory compliance inspection on 28 to 29 September 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.
- 1.3 Additionally, this inspection serves as a material change inspection to assess the school's proposal to change the upper age limit from 16 to 17 years and increase pupil capacity from 70 to 77.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupil performance)	Met
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
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, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 – 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met

Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school provides a suitable curriculum, including in the EYFS. This curriculum gives pupils experience across an appropriately broad and balanced range of subjects and enables them to acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. The curriculum includes an appropriate programme in personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and suitable relationships and sex education (RSE). Senior pupils receive appropriate careers guidance. The curriculum is suitable for the small number of pupils that the school predicts will turn 17 years of age during their study towards GCSE examinations.

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 Pupils take GCSE examinations in their final year at the school. The small numbers involved prevent reliable comparison with national averages, but inspection evidence, including that relating to younger pupils, confirms that teaching enables pupils to make good progress in the context of Part 1 paragraph 3(a). Teaching is characterised by effective use of resources and good subject knowledge. Lessons are well planned to meet the aptitudes and needs of the pupils, including the small number that the school predicts will turn 17 years of age during their study towards GCSE examinations.

Quality of education provided – framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school has an appropriate framework for assessing pupils' performance, including in the EYFS. The framework for pupils' performance is suitable for the small number of those that the school predicts will turn 17 years of age during their study towards these examinations.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school actively and effectively promotes fundamental British values, such as those of democracy, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, the rule of law and individual liberty. Pupils who spoke to the inspectors explained how the school helps them to develop respectful attitudes and an understanding of the importance of equality, including with regard to those with protected characteristics. The school's provision in this area is likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.9 The school meets the requirements.

- 2.10 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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school implements its policy effectively to safeguard the welfare of pupils. It acts in the best interests of the child. It encourages pupils to share any worries and acts effectively when concerns are raised. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL), his deputy, all staff and the proprietor are appropriately and effectively trained. They have considered appropriately any additional safeguarding needs associated with the proposed increase in the maximum age of pupils. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and the appropriate expectations of them outlined in the staff code of conduct. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures when concerns are raised, including any relating to child-on-child abuse. The school filters and monitors internet usage appropriately and teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. The school has appropriate procedures to respond to any allegations or low-level concerns against staff, including reporting to external agencies such as the LADO, DBS or TRA when appropriate. The safeguarding team provides sufficient coverage for their role, including in the EYFS, and this is likely to be sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increased maximum number of pupils.
- 2.13 The school's recruitment procedures are now effective. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school ensures that at least two suitable references are received for staff before they commence working at the school. In addition, the proprietor maintains effective oversight of safeguarding, including checking that staff carrying out and evidencing recruitment checks have sufficient understanding of the requirements of current statutory guidance. This includes knowledge of which checks are required for different staff, how to undertake them effectively and of the need to retain the evidence required to support checks.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The school implements a suitable health and safety policy effectively. Leaders ensure that all required checks and maintenance are carried out when required so that the school complies with relevant health and safety laws. The school's health and safety arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school implements a suitable fire safety policy. Staff receive appropriate fire safety training. The school ensures that a fire risk assessment is carried out and regularly reviewed, and that any actions identified as necessary are carried out. Fire evacuation drills take place at least termly. The school ensures that firefighting and fire detection equipment are checked and maintained regularly. The school's fire safety arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.

- 2.19 The school ensures that pupils, including children in the EYFS, are supervised appropriately. Lesson, breaktime and lunchtime observations confirm the appropriate deployment of staff. The school employs sufficient staff to adequately supervise the proposed maximum number of pupils.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The school implements a suitable written risk assessment policy methodically and effectively. Risk assessments seen demonstrate that the school identifies potential risks and takes effective actions to reduce or remove these. The school's risk assessment arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

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

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 The school now carries out and records all required safer recruitment checks effectively. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school checks the identity and right to work of all staff. It also carries out prohibition from teaching and prohibition from management checks where relevant. The school records its safer recruitment checks accurately in the single central register in line with the requirements.

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

- 2.24 The school meets the standards.
- 2.25 The school provides pupils with suitable toilet, washing, changing and medical facilities. Acoustics and internal and external lighting are appropriate. Drinking water facilities are suitable and clearly labelled. The premises and accommodation, including the teaching rooms, are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to cater for the needs of 77 pupils aged 3 to 17 years.

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

- 2.26 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]

- 2.27 The school meets the standard.
- 2.28 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively. The proprietor has ensured that the action plan submitted following the previous inspection has been fully implemented. In particular, the proprietor ensures that senior leaders and managers implement and monitor safeguarding and welfare arrangements effectively so that the other standards are consistently met and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. The proprietor and school leaders have planned effectively for the proposed material change, which is largely designed to cater for the needs of the small number of pupils that the school predicts will turn 17 years of age during their study towards GCSE examinations.

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. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Summary of findings

- 4.1 The evidence confirms that the school has met the actions set as a result of the previous inspection. It also indicates that the school's educational and pastoral provision are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place. Staffing, premises and accommodation have the capacity to cater for the needs of 77 pupils aged 3 to 17 years.

Recommendation

- 4.2 It is recommended that the school's proposal, to change the upper age limit from 16 to 17 years and increase capacity from 70 to 77, be approved.

5. Summary of evidence

- 5.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head and sole proprietor, senior leaders and other members of staff. They visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Steven Popper

Reporting inspector

Mr Patrick Wenham

Assistant reporting inspector