



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

S. Anselm's School

May 2023

School's details

School	S. Anselm's School		
DfE number	830/6004		
Registered charity number	527179		
Address	S. Anselm's School Stanedge Road Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1DP		
Telephone number	01619 812734		
Email address	head@anselms.co.uk		
Headmaster	Mr Frank Thompson		
Chair of governors	Mr Richard Bowker		
Proprietor	S. Anselm's School Trust Limited		
Age range	3 to 13		
Number of pupils on roll	156		
	Day pupils	59	Boarders 97
	EYFS	31	Pre-Prep 28
	Prep	97	
Date of inspection	12 May 2023		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 S. Anselm's School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school. Pupils may board from the age of 7, including the option of flexi-boarding. The school occupies extensive grounds on the edge of the town of Bakewell. It is a charitable trust administered by a board of governors. It is organised into two sections, the pre-prep for children aged 3 to 7 and the prep for pupils aged 8 to 13. The pre-prep includes an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting. The school has a single boarding house with separate accommodation for male and female pupils. The school has identified 45 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Three pupils receive additional support for English as an additional language. There are no pupils with an education, health and care plan.

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 in October 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022 and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and the proprietor); NMS 19	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding and safeguarding of boarders [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 8]

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 standards.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively in line with the most recent statutory guidance. This ensures that the school provides appropriate support for pupils' needs, including listening to children, giving a response and taking appropriate action when concerns are raised. Pupils stated this to be the case and it is confirmed in records of safeguarding. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online and use of technology is suitably monitored.
- 2.5 All staff have received training on recent changes to statutory guidance through the local authority. They have also received updated training for Prevent and online safety. New staff complete an appropriate induction process to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. This includes details of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B; the staff code of conduct; whistleblowing procedures; procedures for children missing education; and the school's behaviour policy. They complete a quiz to secure their knowledge and understanding following training. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles, and have appropriate levels of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL provides regular informal updates to staff and opportunities for discussion on any changes to safeguarding policy and its implementation.
- 2.6 Staff have a full understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities following their training, including for any pupils with SEND. They recognise the importance of 'early help' strategies, know how to report any concerns about pupils or other staff and adults working with children, and do so appropriately. This includes low-level concerns. Staff understand the varied types of child-on-child abuse and the seriousness of such behaviours. Appropriate records for safeguarding concerns are maintained, stored securely and regularly monitored by the DSL. These show timely and appropriate liaison with both parents and local agencies. The governing body is suitably trained in safeguarding. Governors undertake an annual safeguarding review with knowledge and due diligence, demonstrating an appropriate approach to their oversight of arrangements. This now includes suitable oversight of the recruitment process. This ensures that all checks are completed before a member of staff starts work at the school, including checks against the barred list and against the lists of those prohibited from teaching and/or management. Appropriate references are now taken for each member of staff before work begins. Suitable evidence of recruitment checks is now kept in staff files. Governors provide scrutiny of the single central register of appointments. They provide suitable support and challenge.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school now makes all appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Since the previous inspection, governors and senior

staff have conducted a full review of the recruitment process, provided effective training for staff and implemented a suitably rigorous process of oversight and monitoring. This includes oversight of the management of the single central register of appointments and staff personnel files. Visitors to boarding accommodation are appropriately supervised.

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

- 2.9 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; NMS 2]

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 The school's leadership and management demonstrate good knowledge and skills and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. Since the previous inspection, governors and senior leaders have audited the recruitment process effectively, ensured that relevant staff have completed suitable training and now have an appropriate process of monitoring in place. Proprietorial review is now suitably thorough and supportive to ensure that policies are effectively implemented and actively promote the wellbeing of all pupils including boarders. The action plan required by the previous inspection has been implemented effectively.

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, the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2022 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 inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. She visited different areas of the school and talked with a group of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Diane Gardiner

Reporting inspector