



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Additional Inspection Report

Streatham and Clapham High School

October 2022

School's details

School	Streatham and Clapham High School			
DfE number	208/6311			
Registered charity number	306983			
Address	Streatham and Clapham High School 42 Abbotswood Road London SW16 1AW			
Telephone number	020 8677 8400			
Email address	enquiry@schs.gdst.net			
Acting Headteacher	Mr Richard Hinton			
Proprietor	Girls Day School Trust (GDST)			
Age range	3 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	880			
	EYFS	9	Prep	242
	Seniors	516	Sixth Form	113
Date of inspection	31 October 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Streatham and Clapham High School is an independent day school for pupils aged between 3 and 18 years. It is registered as a single-sex school for female pupils. Founded, as Brixton High School in 1887, it is governed by the GDST, and a local board of governors advises the school. The school comprises an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), preparatory school, senior school and sixth form. Since the previous inspection, the school has appointed an acting headteacher, in March 2022; an executive headteacher, in September 2022; and six other senior leaders.
- 1.2 The school has identified 139 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. Four pupils have an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 28. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 2019.
- 1.3 This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) which 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 (safeguarding)	Not met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Not 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)	Not 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 does not meet the standard.
- 2.4 The content of the safeguarding policy is supported by suitable additional policies, such as code of conduct for staff, whistle-blowing procedures and procedures for safer recruitment of staff. However, not all elements of the policies and procedures are implemented effectively.
- 2.5 Those responsible for safeguarding, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), hold senior positions within the school. They are appropriately trained, including for multi-agency working. Key information is shared regularly between safeguarding and pastoral staff, taking into account each individual pupil's physical, psychological and learning needs and wishes.
- 2.6 Training for staff and for governors is conducted regularly as required. It is effective in most respects and includes informal updates. Staff are knowledgeable about changes in recent legislation including the management of children's mental well-being, contextual safeguarding, child-on-child abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence. They understand the principles underpinning the staff code of conduct and the procedures for making a referral, including the importance of low-level reporting and whistleblowing.
- 2.7 Pupils confirmed that they feel they are listened to by staff. They stated that they have suitable opportunities to raise any concerns about their experiences, whether occurring in or outside of school, although not all pupils were confident that the school always acts on their views. Records show that, in some instances, senior leaders have not sought advice promptly from external agencies. These agencies include the local authority designated officer (LADO), as required by Working Together to Safeguard Children and local safeguarding protocols.
- 2.8 Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included appropriately in safeguarding procedures. However, these have not always been followed correctly, as required by *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE). Referral has not always been made to relevant external agencies including the LADO and the police, when concerns have been identified about adults working in the school. Leaders and governors have not been clear about their responsibility to report any person whose services are no longer used to the appropriate statutory bodies such as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) when referral criteria are met.
- 2.9 The board lead responsible for safeguarding meets regularly with the DSL and deputies. Reports are given regularly to GDST by the DSL, including as part of an annual review of safeguarding by trust representatives. However, oversight of safeguarding is not sufficiently effective in ensuring all requirements are met.

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

- 2.10 The school does not meet the standard.

- 2.11 The school makes effective assessments of risk with regard to school resources, premises and activities. Risk assessments in these areas demonstrate suitable consideration of potential risk and appropriate control measures to minimise potential risks that have been identified.
- 2.12 However, the school does not always conduct and record effective risk assessments relating to pupils' safety and welfare. In particular, the school did not explore potential transferable risk of harm when appropriate.

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

- 2.13 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]

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The school has, and follows, an appropriate policy on recording and responding to complaints that is compliant with the relevant regulatory standards. The school policy for handling parental complaints states appropriately that complaints if any, are handled through a three-stage process (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). This includes a two-part stage 2 formal process where complaints are resolved at either school level (part A) or trust level (part B). Each stage has clear time scales. At the third stage, the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. The handling of complaints received since the previous inspection has followed the school's policy.

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

- 2.16 The school does not meet the standard.
- 2.17 The proprietor has not ensured that those with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently. In particular, oversight of arrangements for safeguarding and risk assessment are not implemented effectively to actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

3.1 The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, safeguarding, paragraph 7

The proprietor must ensure that:

- the school responds promptly and appropriately by seeking advice from the LADO and other external agencies when any safeguarding concerns are raised which meet the thresholds for doing so, in accordance with locally agreed procedures [paragraph 7(a) and (b); EYFS 3.4 and 3.7].
- allegations about members of staff are handled in line with KCSIE, in particular, that prompt referral is made to external agencies when concerns are raised, and sufficient consideration is given to making subsequent referral to the appropriate statutory bodies, including DBS and TRA, if the school ceases to use a person's services [paragraph 7(a) and (b); EYFS 3.4, 3.7 and 3.13].
- oversight and management of safeguarding by the proprietor is sufficient to ensure that all requirements of KCSIE are met [paragraph 7(a) and (b); EYFS 3.4 and 3.7].

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, health and safety, risk assessment paragraph 16

- The proprietor must ensure that all risk assessments relating to pupils' safety and welfare are implemented effectively and appropriate action taken to reduce any risks that are identified, in particular any potential transferable risk of harm [paragraph 16(a) and (b); EYFS 3.65 and 3.66].

ISSR Part 8, Leadership and management, paragraph 34

- The proprietor must ensure that those with leadership and management responsibilities use their skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively to promote the wellbeing of pupils and to ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met [paragraph 34(1)(a)(b) and (c)].

4. Summary of evidence

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

Inspectors

Mr Desmond Dunne

Reporting inspector

Mr Stephen Holliday

Assistant reporting inspector