



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Material Change Visit

The Arts Educational School

October 2021

School's details

School	The Arts Educational School
DfE number	313/6064
Registered charity number	311087
Address	The Arts Educational School 14 Bath Road Chiswick London W4 1LY
Telephone number	020 89876600
Email address	info@artsed.co.uk
Acting headteacher	Ms Claire Parker-Wood
Chair of governors	Mr Mark Burch
Age range	11 to 18
Number of pupils on roll	310
	Day School 140 Sixth Form 170
Date of visit	20 October 2021

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The Arts Educational School is an independent co-educational day school. The school is part of the Arts Educational Schools London, a registered charity overseen by a board of trustees. Some members of the board form a specific governing body for the school. The school has identified 119 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities, which include dyslexia and dyscalculia, as well as autism and behavioural needs. Two pupils have an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 11 pupils, whose needs are supported in class. All pupils have special talents in the performing arts.

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 request to increase the total number of pupils to 330; whether or not the expanded premises will accommodate this number and whether the school is likely to meet the standards checked if the material change is implemented. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

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 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet, washing and changing facilities)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 24 (accommodation for medical needs)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 25 (maintenance of premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 26 to 29 (acoustics; lighting; water supply; and outdoor space)	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]

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 safeguarding policy is effectively implemented at all levels in each section of the school. The policy includes details of Prevent duty guidance and is further supported by suitable policies covering the staff code of conduct, safe recruitment, whistleblowing and e-safety which are understood and implemented by staff. Suitable arrangements exist to ensure that the higher education (HE) establishment operating in the same building as the school is separate both physically and in terms of social or other contact between pupils at the school and HE staff and students. The lead designated safeguarding lead (DSL), who is also the acting headteacher, oversees the deputy DSLs and ensures that safeguarding matters are reported, collated and monitored effectively and that appropriate actions are taken. The DSL has an effective relationship with local agencies and makes appropriate referrals. The DSL and other members of the safeguarding team have sufficient capacity to ensure effective safeguarding implementation regarding the proposed increase in pupil numbers. The safeguarding arrangements are reviewed annually by the governors on behalf of the trustees, who have appropriate knowledge, liaise closely with the DSL and maintain effective oversight. The school's procedures make appropriate provision for issues related to COVID-19.
- 2.5 Pupils can express concerns, are listened to and receive appropriate support, including early help, and there is due regard for their mental health. Pupils confirmed they feel safe at school. Staff understand peer-on-peer abuse, including issues such as sexual harassment and sexual violence, and take appropriate action when incidents occur. Staff training in safeguarding, including for all members of the safeguarding team, is comprehensive including appropriate attention to handling allegations and online safety. The use of technology by pupils is suitably controlled. Where allegations are made the school responds appropriately making prompt referral to external agencies, including the Disclosure and Barring Service and Teaching Regulation Agency.

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

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 The school meets health and safety requirements and is likely to do so with regard to the proposed increase in the number of pupils. The trustees, governors and senior leaders effectively oversee and monitor health and safety, and staff interviewed demonstrated an effective understanding of health and safety matters. Suitable training regarding health and safety is in place for staff. Pupils feel that the school is a safe environment and inspection evidence supports this view. Effective health and safety arrangements are in place for the recently expanded and adapted premises. Effective measures are implemented regarding COVID-19 and the school demonstrates suitable responsibility in this respect.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The school's fire risk policy is implemented effectively, including for the recently expanded and adapted premises related to the proposed material change which have received a suitable fire risk assessment. Recommended actions from the most recent fire risk assessments are appropriately prioritised and carried out in a timely manner. Staff receive appropriate fire safety training and demonstrate good awareness of risks, prevention and procedures in a fire emergency. Suitable equipment is provided and maintenance of alarms and other equipment is carried out effectively. Regular fire drills are held and pupils are confident regarding evacuation procedures.

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

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 Suitable guidance and procedures are in place to ensure pupils are supervised effectively throughout the school day, including within the expanded and adapted premises. This supervision is likely to be appropriate for the increase in pupil numbers being proposed.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 There is an appropriate risk assessment policy which provides for systematic risk assessment and pays attention to key areas of risk and pupils' welfare, such as their activities within the expanded and adapted specialist dance, music and drama studios and art facilities, and on school trips. The policy is implemented effectively. Suitable risk assessment operates with regard to COVID-19 precautions. Staff receive relevant training and completed risk assessments are checked, monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.

Premises and accommodation – toilet, washing and changing facilities [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 Toilet, washing and changing facilities are suitable, particularly regarding pupils' hygiene, personal privacy and dignity requirements related to their daily specialist physical activities; the facilities have been improved within the expanded and adapted premises and are sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Premises and accommodation – accommodation for medical needs [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 24]

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 The school has suitable accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils. The provision is sufficient for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Premises and accommodation – maintenance of premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 25]

- 2.20 The school meets the standard.
- 2.21 The school premises are maintained to a suitable standard. Routine and emergency maintenance tasks are carried out efficiently. Maintenance arrangements are sufficient to ensure that the recent expansion and adaptation to premises in relation to the proposed increased pupil numbers are maintained to the same standard as pre-existing accommodation.

Premises and accommodation – acoustics, lighting, water supply and outdoor space [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 26-29]

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 Acoustics, internal and external lighting, drinking water and water supply are each of a suitable standard, including with regard to the recently expanded and adapted premises related to the proposed increase in pupil numbers. Particular care has been taken regarding acoustics so that pupils' activities within their specialist performing arts activities do not cause disturbance between studios. Nearby parks provide suitable outdoor space within the school's urban setting and the expanded and adapted premises include a roof garden which provides pupils with ready access on site to open air activities.

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

- 2.24 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]

- 2.25 The school meets the standard.
- 2.26 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. The leadership and management have prepared comprehensively regarding the proposed material change.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 It is recommended that that the material change request be approved. The school's expanded and adapted premises will accommodate a maximum of 330 pupils as requested and are likely to meet the standards checked if the material change is implemented.

4. Summary of evidence

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