

VITA ET PAX PREPARATORY SCHOOL

6a Priory Chase, Green Road, Southgate, London, N14 4AT

27 JUNE 2018

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Vita et Pax Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged 3 to 11 years. It is run by a board of governors, the chair of which has been appointed since the previous inspection. There are currently 152 pupils on roll, 35 of whom are in the Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS). The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 14. They require support with speech and language difficulties and other conditions. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs, an education, health and care (EHC) plan, or English as an additional language (EAL). The previous ISI regulatory compliance inspection took place on 17 to 18 May 2017, and the previous ISI progress monitoring visit took place on 17 November 2017.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit carried out at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous ISI progress monitoring visit. The focus of the visit was the safeguarding of pupils, fire safety, the suitability of proprietors, the manner in which complaints are handled, and the quality of leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b); EYFS 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The regulation and requirements are not met.

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.

The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. It has regard to the most recent statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 (KCSIE) (September 2016)*. The policy identifies a governor with responsibility for the oversight of safeguarding, and is further supported by suitable guidance covering managing disclosure and listening to children, the safe recruitment of staff, whistleblowing, a staff code of conduct and information on how pupils are educated about online safety.

The school implements the safeguarding policy effectively and in line with current statutory guidance in most, but not all, regards. Child protection records are held securely with the required confidentiality. The acting designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSL have recent safeguarding training, including inter-agency training, approved by the local authority.

All other staff receive regular safeguarding training, which includes the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. They have a strong understanding of their responsibilities and are aware of how to refer concerns. Arrangements are made for suitable induction training. All staff have read KCSIE Part 1 and Annex A.

Staff understand proper procedures for reporting any allegations about staff that may come to their attention. Leaders understand the need to report any allegations against staff to the Disqualification and Barring Service (DBS) and/or Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) when appropriate.

The safeguarding governor meets with the acting DSL regularly, conducts a safeguarding audit, and reports back to the main board. Governors formally review the school's policy and arrangements annually.

However, the school has not ensured that all aspects of the safeguarding policy have been implemented effectively. It has not ensured that safeguarding procedures are always well managed and follow the local authority guidance. In particular, the school does not always liaise with or, when appropriate, refer to the local safeguarding children board in accordance with local inter-agency procedures, particularly with regard to children potentially at risk.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – Fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; EYFS 3.55]

The regulation and requirements are met.

The school meets all fire safety requirements and adopts a systematic approach towards ensuring pupils are safe from the risk of fire. All staff receive appropriate training in fire safety, including during induction. The school has appointed competent persons as fire wardens, who have appropriate training, experience and knowledge for the role. Fire equipment is tested by an external company annually, and fire alarms are tested frequently and regularly. Fire drills are carried out termly at different times of day. Leaders have ensured that a suitable fire risk assessment is in place. Records show that the school has ensured that appropriate preventative and protective measures for fire safety are carried out and monitored by the senior leadership team and governors. They also confirm that recommended action points identified on the recent fire risk assessment have been completed in a timely manner, such as the recent upgrading of the school fire alarm system and the checking of building cladding for fire safety. Since the previous inspection, leaders and governors have also ensured that records of all fire checks, including evacuation drills, are sufficiently detailed to provide useful information for future improvement of the fire arrangements, and that they are stored securely.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors – the appointment of proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 20 (4-6)]

The regulation is met.

The governors and leadership ensure that the school makes appropriate checks on the suitability of proprietors. The register and individual governor files clearly record the dates when the appropriate checks have been made. Governors appointed since the previous inspection have been checked appropriately and as required. In particular, the school has ensured that the chair of governors has been subject to an enhanced criminal records check, countersigned by the Secretary of State, and that she does not carry out work, or intend to carry out work, at the school in contravention of a prohibition order.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]

The regulation is met.

The governors have ensured that a complaints procedure is drawn up and effectively implemented which deals with the handling of complaints from parents of pupils through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). The school's arrangements set out clear timescales for the management of a complaint at each stage. The school keeps a written record of all formal

complaints and whether they are resolved following a formal procedure or proceed to a panel hearing, and of action taken by the school as a result of any formal complaints, regardless of whether they are upheld.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)]

The regulation is not met.

The governors and school leaders and managers have ensured that the school has successfully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous inspection. Governors, under the leadership of the recently appointed chair, have acted effectively to acknowledge and respond to parental views, such as through the recently held ‘governors’ forum’ where parents were invited to express and receive responses to their views. However, the governors and school leaders have not ensured that the safeguarding policy has been implemented effectively and that safeguarding procedures are always well managed and follow the local authority guidance. Therefore, governors do not ensure that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the standards are consistently met and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school does not meet all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and relevant requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

ISSR Part 3, Welfare, Health and Safety, paragraph 7 (a & b)

- Ensure that the school liaises with and refers to the local safeguarding children board in accordance with local inter-agency procedures, particularly with regard to children potentially at risk.

ISSR Part 8, Quality of Leadership in and Management of Schools, paragraph 34(1)(a, b & c)

- Ensure that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.