

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

VITA ET PAX PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MAY 2017



School's details

School	Vita et Pax Preparatory School			
DfE Number	308/6056			
Registered charity number	281566			
Address	6a Priory Close Green Road Southgate London N14 4AT			
Telephone number	020 84498336			
Email address	info@vitaetpax.co.uk			
Headteacher	Miss Gillian Chumbley			
Chair of governors	Mr Simon Payne			
Age range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	193			
	Boys	73	Girls	120
	EYFS	49	Juniors	144
Pupils' ability	The school's own assessment indicates that the ability of pupils on entry is above average.			
Pupils' needs	The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 16. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. No pupils have English as an additional language (EAL).			
History of the school	The school was founded in 1936 by Benedictine Olivetan sisters and moved to its current site in 1966. The current headteacher took up her post in January 2017, and the current deputy headteacher took up her position in April 2017.			
Ownership and governing structure	The school is governed by a council of management, which has a number of subcommittees that focus on specific areas of the school, including premises and health and safety.			
School structure	The school consists of three departments: Nursery,			

	Reception to Year 2, and Junior (Years 3 to 6).
Other useful information	The school does not cater for boarders.
Inspection dates	17 to 18 May 2017

PREFACE

The registration authority for independent schools is the Department for Education (DfE), which directs inspection according to a specified frequency or at any time where the DfE has particular concerns about a school. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and reporting on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards (“the standards”) in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Accordingly, inspection records whether the school meets each of these standards, which are arranged in eight Parts, each of which is divided into separate paragraphs. The inspection of schools that have early years settings not requiring registration similarly records whether the school complies with key provisions of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework, and for registered settings the full range of the Early Years Foundation Stage provisions is considered. Additionally, the inspection reports on the school’s accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the compliance action points set out in the school’s most recent statutory inspection.

All association independent schools will have an inspection within three years from April 2016, in accordance with the Framework. The inspection may be of COMPLIANCE ONLY or of EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE depending on a number of factors, including findings from their most recent inspection. Schools judged not to meet the standards following their inspection may also be subject to a progress monitoring visit before their next routine inspection. The progress monitoring visit will judge whether the school has taken the necessary action to meet any unmet standards and any qualitative concerns identified at their previous inspection.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school’s compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated in the relevant section of the report and the school is required to take the actions specified.

The inspection does not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as:

- (i) the school’s aims;
- (ii) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (iii) compliance with data protection requirements;
- (iv) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features;
- (v) contractual arrangements with parents;
- (vi) an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Where necessary, National Curriculum nomenclature is used to refer to year groups. Links to the full regulations and requirements can be found here: [The Independent School Standards Regulations](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#).

SUMMARY EVALUATION

The school does not meet all of the required standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, [relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and associated requirements, and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.

PART 1

Quality of education provided

The school uses its own framework to determine attainment, instead of the national framework.

The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.

The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.

PART 2

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.

The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.

PART 3

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.

Fire drills are regularly undertaken, relevant fire safety equipment is well maintained, emergency routes are well signed and kept clear and visitors are provided with fire safety information. However, while the current leadership team have begun to take steps to address this, the appointed fire safety officer does not have the required training, expertise and knowledge, and staff have not been provided with regular training.

The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16, the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met but those in paragraph 12 [compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005] are not met.

Action point 1

- **The school must ensure that the appointed fire safety officer has sufficient training, experience and knowledge to assist in taking preventative and protective measures (including firefighting and evacuation) and that training of all staff is provided and repeated periodically when appropriate [paragraph 12].**

PART 4**Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

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

The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17–21] are met.

PART 5**Premises of and accommodation at schools**

Suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities for pupils and appropriate accommodation for their medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

Toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water, drinking water facilities are clearly marked as such, and the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users. However, while the current leadership team have arranged for legionella checks to be carried out, there are no records of previous legionella checks to ensure that cold water supplies are suitable for drinking.

The standards relating to the premises and accommodation in paragraphs 22–27 and 29-31 are met but those in paragraph 28 [water supply] are not met.

Action point 2

- **The school must ensure that legionella controls comply with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on managing legionella in hot and cold water systems [paragraph 28(1)(a)].**

PART 6

Provision of information

A range of information is variously published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. These include details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for those with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. They also include particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, and its results in public examinations, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.

PART 7

Manner in which complaints are handled

Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8

Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proprietor ensures 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.

The standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] is met.

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The inspectors observed a small sample of lessons, conducted formal interviews with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with teachers, senior members of staff and with the chairman of governors. They observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended registration sessions and assemblies. Inspectors visited the facilities for sick or injured pupils. The responses of parents and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mrs Janet Pickering

Reporting inspector

Mrs Joanne Farmer

Compliance team inspector (Deputy head, ISA school)