



**ISI**

Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit**

**Sibford School**

**May 2022**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Sibford School			
<b>DfE number</b>	931/6005			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1068256			
<b>Address</b>	Sibford School The Hill Sibford Ferris Banbury Oxfordshire OX15 5QL			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01295 781200			
<b>Email address</b>	office@sibfordschool.co.uk			
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Toby Spence			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Jonathan Lingham			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 18			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	414			
	<b>Day pupils</b>	395	<b>Boarders</b>	19
	<b>EYFS</b>	13	<b>Juniors</b>	91
	<b>Seniors</b>	257	<b>Sixth Form</b>	53
<b>Date of visit</b>	26 May 2022			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Sibford School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school situated in a village near Banbury, Oxfordshire. The school has a Quaker ethos. It is a charitable trust, overseen by a board of governors, known as the school committee. Boarding provision is available from the age of 11. Boarders are accommodated in two boarding houses, situated on the main school site. The school includes an Early Years Foundation Stage setting within the junior school. The school has 222 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom two have an education, health and care plan. Twelve pupils speak English as an additional language. The previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection together with an inspection of educational quality which took place on 30 November to 3 December 2021.

### Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit 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 of December 2021. The visit focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Requirements.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 11	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraph 18 (appointment of staff); NMS 14	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management); NMS 13	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 and 8; NMS 11]**

#### **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 The school implements its safeguarding policy and procedures effectively. It acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures and maintains effective links with local safeguarding partners. Staff, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs, are suitably trained. They understand and implement the responsibilities laid down in the code of conduct, including those relating to safeguarding. The school implements appropriate procedures with regard to child-on-child abuse, including any relating to sexual harassment or sexual violence, and provides appropriate support to any pupils affected. The school puts into practice suitable procedures with regard to allegations against staff. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Governors maintain an appropriate oversight of the school's safeguarding policy and practice. This has included speaking with pupils about the issues raised in the previous inspection. The safeguarding team provides sufficient coverage for the school, including in boarding, the EYFS and the sixth form.
- 2.5 The school acts in the best interests of the child. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that the arrangements in school for listening to pupils are effective. The school responds appropriately when pupils raise concerns and takes action when necessary. It implements effective recruitment procedures. The school ensures that it checks whether teaching staff are subject to prohibition from teaching orders before they commence working at the school.

### **Appointment of staff [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18; NMS 14]**

- 2.6 The school meets the standards.
- 2.7 The school ensures that all new staff are subject to the required suitability checks. Since the previous inspection, the school has introduced effective systems to make certain that no staff commence working at the school until all required suitability checks have been completed.

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

- 2.8 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 13]**

- 2.9 The school meets the standards.
- 2.10 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. Monitoring of the leadership, management and delivery of boarding provision is effective. In particular, leaders have taken effective steps to develop a school

culture within which pupils feel they can speak to an adult at school if they are worried about something. This was confirmed by pupils who spoke to the inspectors.

### **3. Regulatory action points**

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the safeguarding governor. They talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.