



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**King's School Canterbury**

**November 2022**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	The King's School Canterbury			
<b>DfE number</b>	886/6048			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	307942			
<b>Address</b>	The King's School, Canterbury 25 The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2ES			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01227 595501			
<b>Email address</b>	info@kings-school.co.uk			
<b>Interim Head</b>	Mrs Elizabeth Worthington			
<b>Interim Chair of governors</b>	Comte Benoit de Vitry d'Avaucourt			
<b>Age range</b>	13 to 18			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	946			
	<b>Day pupils</b>	209	<b>Boarders</b>	737
	<b>Shell and Middle School</b>	565	<b>Sixth Form</b>	381
<b>Date of inspection</b>	29 November 2022			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The King's School, Canterbury is a co-educational day and boarding school. The school includes an international college for overseas pupils aged between 13 and 16 years. The school is a charity, overseen by a board of 16 governors with the chair and four members of the board drawn from the Canterbury Cathedral Foundation. There are thirteen boarding houses as well as the international college, together with three separate houses for day pupils. The school has 195 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupils have an education, health and care plan. There are 397 pupils for whom English is an additional language. The school's previous inspections were a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2020 and an additional inspection in June 2021.

### Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase capacity from 930 to 960 pupils. The proposed increase in numbers principally concerns the pupils at the international college, all of whom board. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2022. The inspection focused on boarding at the international college.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding) and 8 (safeguarding of boarders); NMS 8	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); NMS 9	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety); NMS 10	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); NMS 20	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment): NMS 9	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors): NMS 19	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 30 (premises and accommodation); NMS 4	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 2	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

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

#### **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 Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils are implemented effectively, including those relating to the Prevent duty. The school ensures a culture of listening to pupils. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn for support. They receive a response when they express concerns, and appropriate action is taken where necessary. This was confirmed during interviews with pupils and staff and by records of safeguarding. Pupils understand how to keep themselves and others safe, including when online.
- 2.5 All staff, including those in positions of responsibility for safeguarding, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures. Interviews with staff and leaders from all parts of the school, confirm they fully understand their role in safeguarding. In particular, they understand different types of abuse including child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment and the particular vulnerability of those with SEND. They also understand the need to report concerns expressed at a low level. Staff are ready to identify, report and investigate potential abuse. The safeguarding policy contains suitable guidance about reporting low-level concerns about adults working in the school and this is understood by staff. Records show that staff report any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate person in a timely fashion. Senior leaders communicate concerns to relevant outside agencies effectively. They take prompt action where concerns are raised, or incidents occur.
- 2.6 Suitable arrangements to handle allegations against adults working with pupils are implemented effectively. Safeguarding is effectively managed. There is an appropriate staff code of conduct and suitable arrangements for whistleblowing. Interviews with staff confirmed suitable understanding of these and willingness to act appropriately should the need arise. Staff recruitment procedures follow all relevant guidance.
- 2.7 The governors maintain appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures, completing sufficiently regular reviews of safeguarding policy and practice effectively. Governors are appropriately trained in safeguarding. The safeguarding team represent all parts of the school and are sufficient in number and expertise to support effective safeguarding for pupils within the school community, including within the international college, and for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; NMS 9]**

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The governors and senior leaders ensure that a suitable written health and safety policy is implemented effectively. This enables compliance with the relevant health and safety laws in all parts of the school including in the international college. The policy and related materials provide staff with

suitable guidance on health and safety matters. Appropriate records are kept of relevant health and safety checks. Matters of health and safety are regularly reviewed and reported to the governors for further review. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12; NMS 10]**

2.10 The school meets the standards.

2.11 The governors ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, for all parts of the school, including the international college. Appropriate fire risk assessments have been undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The school has implemented the required actions suitably and keeps the assessments under review. There are appropriately trained competent persons on site responsible for fire safety. A suitable number of staff are trained effectively to support fire evacuation procedures for the current pupils and for the predicted increase in numbers of pupils. Records show fire evacuations take place regularly, pupils confirm they understand the correct procedures. Records show appropriate installation and maintenance of fire detection and firefighting equipment. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14: NMS 20]**

2.12 The school meets the standards.

2.13 Discussions with pupils and staff, together with observations around the school including the international college, confirm that appropriate numbers of staff are suitably deployed to ensure adequate supervision of pupils. There are suitable arrangements for supervision in boarding, including overnight. Arrangements are sufficient for the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; NMS 9]**

2.14 The school meets the standards.

2.15 The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy. The school has an effective understanding of risk assessment. They exist for all relevant aspects of the school premises and activities, including the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21; NMS 19]**

2.16 The school meets the standards.

2.17 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 – [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23-30; NMS 4]**

2.18 The school meets the standards.

2.19 The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of pupils. It provides appropriate accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils and for the short-term care of sick pupils. The school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and

welfare of pupils is ensured. This includes new, additional accommodation for day pupils. In discussions, staff and pupils confirmed that, in their experience, all matters of maintenance are dealt with satisfactorily and swiftly. The acoustic conditions of the school facilities and internal and external lighting are suitable. Suitable drinking water facilities, clearly marked as such, are provided. The school provides suitable outdoor space for pupils' physical education and for their recreation. Accommodation for boarding pupils at the international college is suitably appointed and organised. It is likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increased number of pupils.

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

- 2.20 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 2]**

- 2.21 The school meets the standards.
- 2.22 The governors ensure that senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that all the other standards are consistently met. They actively promote the educational wellbeing of the pupils. Suitable planning for the increase in school capacity has been executed effectively. This makes it likely that the standards will continue to be met with the increase in pupil numbers.

### **3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection**

#### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its total pupil numbers to 960 is granted. The governors have made suitable arrangements to ensure that suitable health and safety, fire safety and risk assessment procedures are implemented. Detailed plans to develop the school's accommodation and facilities, including the introduction of the international college and a new day house, have been part of a long-term strategic plan to meet the needs of the projected increase in numbers. These and other associated facilities are now in place to cater for the numbers for which they were designed. The premises, accommodation and staffing are suitably resourced and maintained to meet the needs of the proposed number of pupils.

## 4. Summary of evidence

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

### Inspectors

Mrs Vivien Sergeant

Reporting inspector