



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Padworth College

January 2020



School's details

College	Padworth College		
DfE number	869/6009		
Address	Padworth College Padworth Reading Berkshire RG7 4NR		
Telephone number	0118 315 0063		
Email address	principal@padworth.com		
Principal	Mrs Lorraine Atkins		
Proprietors	Mr Charlie Freer and Mr Mark Jeynes		
Age range	13 to 19		
Number of pupils on roll	59		
	Day pupils	10	Boarders 49
	Seniors	28	Sixth Form 31
Date of visit	13 January 2020		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Padworth College was founded in 1963 as an international college. It is currently coeducational with day and boarding provision for pupils between the ages of 13 and 19. The college is divided into the senior school for pupils up to Year 11, and the sixth form. Boarders are accommodated in four single-sex boarding houses located near to the main school. Governance is provided by the joint proprietors. The principal was appointed in September 2019. The school has identified two pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil has an education, health and care plan. Pupils with SEND receive additional specialist help outside of the classroom. Also, 54 pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). A range of courses are provided for EAL pupils according to their needs in addition to adjustments made by class teachers.

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 implemented fully the action plan submitted following the short visit inspection on 14 June 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 9 (behaviour); NMS 12	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management); NMS 13	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7 (a) and (b); NMS 11]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirement.
- 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 Those responsible for governance and leadership take seriously their responsibilities for safeguarding. An annual review of safeguarding is undertaken in line with the requirements of the local authority (LA). The needs of pupils are addressed promptly, and the handling and progress of safeguarding issues is monitored weekly. Staff are aware of the latest statutory requirements and training is regularly updated. They have a good knowledge of how to make a referral, the code of conduct and the school's whistleblowing arrangements. Records indicate that pupils receive appropriate support from the school and where required, from a wider range of professionals such as child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). Pupils feel safe at school and are confident that they have a member of staff to whom they can turn if they are worried or concerned. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy safeguarding leads (DDSLs) are well-informed and appropriately trained. They know the pupils well and have robust recording and monitoring systems in place. Advice is sought from the LA and referrals made without delay.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – behaviour [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 9; NMS 12]

- 2.5 The school meets the standards.
- 2.6 The school has a clear and detailed behaviour policy which is in line with other policies including the recently updated drugs policy. Appropriate sanctions are in place and these are applied promptly, consistently and fairly if behaviour does not meet expectations, including incidents related to prohibited substances. A detailed record is kept of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour. Pupils state strongly that the school's recently appointed leaders have clarified the school's rewards and sanctions and that these are issued fairly and consistently by staff.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32]

- 2.7 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]

- 2.8 The school meets the standards.
- 2.9 The new proprietors, leadership and management take seriously their responsibility to ensure that the school is compliant consistently. Appropriate procedures for monitoring all aspects of compliance have been instigated with robust monitoring and swift action where required. The proprietors ensure that the leadership and management of the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the well-being of pupils is promoted actively.

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 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 proprietors. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.