



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**Breaside Preparatory School**

**July 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Breaside Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	305/6004			
<b>Address</b>	Breaside Preparatory School 41–43 Orchard Road Bromley Kent BR1 2PR			
<b>Telephone number</b>	0208 460 0916			
<b>Email address</b>	info@breaside.co.uk			
<b>Executive Principal</b>	Mrs Karen Nicholson			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	James Carroll			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Cognita Ltd			
<b>Age range</b>	2 to 11			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	384			
	<b>EYFS</b>	127	<b>Juniors</b>	257
<b>Date of inspection</b>	7 July 2023			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Breaside Preparatory School is a co-educational independent day school. It is owned by Cognita Schools Limited. Cognita appoints a representative, the director of education, who chairs a team to carry out the normal functions of governance. The school has twenty-seven pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils have an education, health and care plan. No pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in November 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 its total capacity to 483 pupils and to add to its premises through the acquisition of an additional campus. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]**

#### **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 standard.
- 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 and of respect for others, including those with protected characteristics. Pupils confirm that they have a variety of people to whom they can turn for support and a variety of different mechanisms to use to alert trusted adults should they have a concern. Planning and discussions with staff indicate that such reporting mechanisms will be available to pupils at the new additional site. Pupils receive a response when they express concerns in school, 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. There is a designated safeguarding lead for the EYFS who will be responsible across both sites from September 2023. Interviews with leaders and staff from all parts of the school, confirm they fully understand their respective roles in safeguarding. Some of these staff will be taking up posts at the additional site in September 2023, with the deliberate aim of ensuring the existing school culture is developed across both sites. In particular, all staff understand different types of abuse including child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment. They understand the particular vulnerability of those pupils with SEND. Staff are ready to identify, report and investigate potential abuse. Senior leaders communicate concerns to relevant outside agencies effectively. They take prompt action where concerns are raised, or incidents occur.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy contains suitable guidance about reporting low-level concerns about adults working in the school. This guidance is understood by staff and concerns are shared with senior leaders appropriately when they arise. 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. Suitable arrangements to handle allegations against adults working with pupils are in place.
- 2.7 The proprietor maintains appropriate oversight of safeguarding procedures, completing sufficiently regular reviews of safeguarding policy and practice effectively. The proprietor's representatives are appropriately trained in safeguarding. The safeguarding team represents all parts of the school. Together with staff already recruited who have suitable training and will be deployed at the new site, the team is sufficient in number and expertise to support effective safeguarding for pupils within the school community across both sites, and for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.

- 2.9 The proprietor and senior leaders ensure that a suitable written health and safety policy is implemented effectively. 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 which are undertaken effectively. Matters of health and safety are regularly reviewed by senior leaders with any recommendations noted leading to prompt remedial action. Planning indicates this practice is likely to be maintained across both sites. The additional school site has been subject to an initial health and safety review by the proprietor, which identifies actions to be completed which are in line with those expected by standards. This makes it likely that regulations will continue to be met at the additional new site. 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]**

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. An appropriate fire risk assessment has 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 numbers of pupils at the additional school site. Records show fire evacuations take place regularly and pupils confirmed they understand the correct procedures. Records show appropriate installation and maintenance of fire detection and firefighting equipment. Appropriately qualified contractors are responsible for putting new firefighting and detection systems into the new school site. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils and plans being implemented for the additional school site make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 Discussions with pupils and staff, together with observations around the school, confirm that appropriate numbers of staff are suitably deployed to ensure adequate supervision of pupils, including in the EYFS. Discussions with current staff who will transfer to the new school site, along with others who have been newly recruited, show that arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils and make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 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. Senior leaders and staff demonstrate an effective understanding of risk assessment. Effective assessments exist for all relevant aspects of the school premises and activities. There is a suitable risk assessment for the redevelopment of the additional school site, taking into account the continued welfare of pupils. It is likely that regulations will continue to be met with the proposed increase in the number of pupils.

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

- 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. Arrangements are appropriate for the proposed increase in the number of pupils and make it likely that regulations will continue to be met.

### **Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23-29]**

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 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. 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, including outdoor education areas in the EYFS. Plans seen, together with a site visit, indicate that facilities of a comparable standard are likely to be in place at the additional site. It is likely that the standards will continue to be met for 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]**

- 2.21 The school meets the standard.
- 2.22 The proprietor ensures 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 wellbeing of the pupils. Suitable planning is in place for the additional school site and has been executed effectively so far. It is 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 483 and to open a new school site is granted. The proprietor has 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 have been part of a long-term strategic plan to meet the needs of the increasing demand for places. The planning and redevelopment of the additional site indicate that the premises, accommodation and staffing are likely to be suitably resourced and maintained to meet the needs of the proposed increase in the total number of pupils.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the 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