



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

St Anthony's School for Boys

June 2023

School's details

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|---------------------------------|---|-----|----------------|----|
| School | St Anthony's School for Boys | | | |
| DfE number | 202/6181 | | | |
| Address | St Anthony's School for Boys 90 Fitzjohn's Avenue London NW3 6NP | | | |
| Telephone number | 020 7431 1066 | | | |
| Email address | pahead@stanthonysprep.co.uk | | | |
| Headteacher | Mr Richard Berlie | | | |
| Chair of governors | Mrs Liz Francis | | | |
| Proprietor | Alpha Plus Group | | | |
| Age range | 4 to 13 | | | |
| Number of pupils on roll | 273 | | | |
| | EYFS | 23 | Juniors | 94 |
| | Seniors | 156 | | |
| Date of inspection | 12 June 2023 | | | |

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Anthony's School is a Roman Catholic day school for male pupils. It has been owned and managed by the Alpha Plus Group since 2009 and shares a board of governors in common with the group's other schools. Accommodation is on two sites within close walking distance of one another. Pupils from Reception to Year 3 attend the junior house. Those in Years 4 to 8 are in the senior house. The school has 83 pupils who require additional support or special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). One pupil has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 117 pupils. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in November 2019.

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 changes to its lower age limit to two years. This will be done by admitting female pupils to a co-educational Nursery class. This is intended to cater for up to 26 children. It will not increase the existing total registered number of children at the school or the provision solely for male pupils in Reception and above. 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 (EYFS). This visit focused on junior house, where the planned new Nursery class will be located.

| Regulations which were the focus of the inspection | Team judgements |
|---|-----------------|
| Part 1, paragraphs 2 - 4 (curriculum, teaching and framework for pupil performance) | Met |
| Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision) | Met |
| Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment) | Met |
| Part 4, paragraphs 18 - 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and the proprietors) | Met |
| Part 5, paragraphs 23 - 29 (premises and accommodation) | Met |
| Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information) | Met |
| Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management) | Met |

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum, teaching and framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4]

- 2.1 The school meets the standards.
- 2.2 The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate schemes of work and covers the required breadth of material. The learning programme planned for Nursery supports children's individual needs, interests and stages of development appropriately. The school recognises the importance of building strong links with parents of children in Nursery, similar to those already in place with parents of children in Reception.
- 2.3 Staff in the EYFS have made effective plans to work collaboratively to ensure consistency of approach and suitable progression within Nursery and Reception classes. The school's existing and effective method of recording children's progress is readily adaptable to younger children. There is suitable provision to meet the needs of any child requiring additional support, such as those with SEND, including links with external professional services. The school has appropriate plans to support teaching in Nursery through the provision of suitable equipment and resources and the planned outdoor area will provide Nursery children with suitable access to outdoor learning.
- 2.4 Children's progress at the end of the EYFS is assessed in accordance with the requirements of the statutory early years framework. Staff are aware of the need to incorporate the two-year-old progress check into their current assessment arrangements.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Scrutiny of the school's documentation and discussions with pupils confirmed that the school promotes values and principles which facilitate pupils' personal development from the early years. For example, developing their sense of responsibility, tolerance and understanding of good conduct. The school, through its faith ethos, is appropriately committed to teaching pupils to have respect for people with protected characteristics. Pupils from Reception to Year 3 articulate a clear understanding of the values which underpin the school's culture, such as kindness, honesty and helping one another.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.7 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.8 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

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively in line with its policy and current statutory guidance. These include appropriate provision for the specific requirements for children in the EYFS. All new staff receive comprehensive training to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Thereafter they receive regular update training, such as in online safety. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have undertaken training at a higher level and have

appropriate authority to carry out their role. There is a suitable safeguarding lead for the EYFS. They display suitable knowledge to enable them to perform their roles efficiently, including an understanding of the referral arrangements of their local safeguarding partners.

- 2.11 Staff understand the need to listen to pupils and to take appropriate and prompt action by informing the DSL when there are concerns. They understand the different types of abuse, including child-on-child abuse and that some children may not have the ability to articulate something that has happened to them. Staff know how to report any concerns about adults working with pupils to the head, including concerns which they regard as low-level. Records of safeguarding concerns confirm that the school readily refers to appropriate external agencies. The school gives both pupils and their parents appropriate guidance about online safety and there is appropriate control of the use of technology in the EYFS. Pupils are confident that their teachers listen to their concerns and offer them sufficient support. This is confirmed by records of safeguarding. The governing body operates robust oversight of safeguarding arrangements, including through its annual review and checks of recruitment practices. Evidence indicates that the standard is likely to continue to be met with the admission of children from the age of two.

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

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school has an appropriate health and safety policy which is securely implemented through the testing and maintenance of equipment and facilities at appropriate intervals and the accurate keeping of records. Health and safety is regularly and effectively monitored to ensure that the school sites remain safe for pupils, staff and visitors. Staff are provided with information about health and safety on induction, and receive regular updates appropriate to their roles. The addition of a Nursery class is unlikely to affect existing effective arrangements.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

- 2.14 The school meets the standard.
- 2.15 The school has appropriate measures to comply with fire safety requirements. These are well understood by staff and guided by a suitable fire safety policy. Regular fire risk assessment is carried out and any required actions addressed. Equipment for fire detection and fighting is maintained at correct intervals and fire evacuation drills held regularly. The proposed Nursery room has external access to enable safe evacuation of children from the age of two.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The school implements suitable procedures to supervise pupils throughout the day from their arrival to their departure. Staffing arrangements in the EYFS currently ensure that suitable ratios of children to adults can be maintained and suitable plans have been made to ensure this continues in the future with children from the age of two. Pupils report that staff are always readily accessible.

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

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.

- 2.19 An effective risk assessment policy is implemented for facilities and activities on site as well as for external visits. Risk assessments identify both hazards and the actions required to mitigate them and required daily checks are conducted in the EYFS. Staff receive appropriate training in completing a risk assessment and senior leaders ensure these are regularly reviewed. The school is aware that additional risk assessment will be required when children enter the Nursery class in order to ensure any age-specific risks are reduced.

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

- 2.20 The school meets the standards.
- 2.21 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required. Evidence indicates that the standards are likely to remain met should the material change be approved.

Premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23-29]

- 2.22 The school meets the standards.
- 2.23 The school provides suitable toilet and washing facilities for the pupils. Plans include separate bathroom facilities within the proposed nursery. Accommodation for pupils' medical needs is adequate and included for improvement in the forthcoming building programme. The school has suitable arrangements to ensure children in the EYFS receive first aid care and medication, if requested by parents, from a paediatric qualified first aider. Pupils are able to access drinking water from suitably labelled facilities. A tour of junior house confirmed that the premises are maintained to a suitable standard and acoustics and lighting are appropriate. Staff confirmed that maintenance concerns are dealt with efficiently and promptly. Outdoor areas provide sufficient space for physical education and recreation. Existing teaching and recreational space will not be adversely affected by the addition of a Nursery class. The proposed accommodation for children from the age of two, which includes provision for outdoor learning, is suitable.

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

- 2.24 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]

- 2.25 The school meets the standard.
- 2.26 The school's leadership has the required skills and knowledge and ensures that the standards are met, and the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted. Governors monitor compliance with regulations effectively. Planning for the introduction of a Nursery class has taken into account the needs of children from the age of two. Evidence indicates that the independent school standards are likely to remain met should the material change be approved.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its age range to 2-13 years by starting a Nursery class be approved. The proprietor has made suitable staff appointments and arranged for an appropriate learning programme to be devised. Measures to ensure that health and safety, fire safety, supervision and risk assessment are in place for the existing site are satisfactory. The planned renovation to accommodate the new Nursery class is likely to be comparable with the standard of the current premises. Arrangements for supervision and safeguarding are suitable for the needs of children from the age of two.

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 the school's governing body and the governor with responsibility for the EYFS. She visited different areas of the school and talked with a group of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Jan Preece

Reporting inspector