



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

St Martin's School

March 2023

School's details

School	St Martin's School			
DfE number	839/6003			
Address	St Martin's School 15 Stoke Wood Road Bournemouth Dorset BH3 7NA			
Telephone number	01202 292011			
Email address	admin@stmartinsschool.net			
Headteacher	Mrs Laura Richards			
Proprietor	Mr Tim Shenton			
Age range	3 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	94			
	EYFS	15	Juniors	79
Date of inspection	24 March 2023			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 St Martin's School is an independent co-educational day school. The school has been owned by members of the same family since 1976, one member of whom is the sole proprietor. The school comprises the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), for children aged 3 to 5 years, and the juniors, for pupils aged 5 to 11 years. There are 16 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom two have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Twenty-five pupils speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection, which took place in June 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection 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 on 15 to 17 June 2022. 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)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraph 23 (toilet and washing facilities)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management)	Met

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 The school acts in the best interests of the child. Implementation of all aspects of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support to ensure the welfare of pupils, including children in the EYFS.
- 2.5 The school encourages pupils to share any concerns. Scrutiny of safeguarding records confirms that the school acts swiftly, appropriately and in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures should any concerns arise. The school educates pupils about how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Internet use is filtered and monitored appropriately. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and the deputy DSLs are suitably trained, as are all staff. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and the expectations made of them through the appropriate staff code of conduct. The school has suitable procedures should any concern about child-on-child abuse arise, including sexual harassment or violence, or any allegation about an adult working with children be made. These procedures are known and understood by staff. The DSL and her deputies provide sufficient coverage for the role across the school, including in the EYFS.
- 2.6 The proprietor now maintains effective oversight of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures, including through a thorough and comprehensive annual review. The proprietor ensures that the school implements effective safer recruitment procedures. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school has ensured that statutory guidance is followed in the recruitment of staff, including dating all documents required to be retained as proof of checks to show the date the originals were seen.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school conducts all required pre-employment checks on staff and the proprietor and records these appropriately on a single central register (SCR) of appointments. It does not use supply staff. In particular, since the previous inspection, the school checks staff's identity effectively, and ensures that each member of staff's right to work in the UK and relevant qualifications are checked. It also ensures that all staff pre-employment checks are completed and entered on the SCR before staff commence working at the school.

Premises and accommodation – toilet and washing facilities [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Since the previous inspection, the school has improved the availability of existing toilet facilities effectively. These are now sufficient in quantity for the number of children in the EYFS and pupils in the rest of the school. In addition, it has provided an additional washbasin which is situated so that

pupils needing to wash their hands for reasons not related to toilet use no longer cause congestion in the toilet areas. As a result of these effective actions, the school ensures that an adequate number of suitable toilets are provided for the number of pupils.

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

2.11 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]

2.12 The school meets the standard.

2.13 School leaders and the proprietor have successfully completed the actions set as a result of the previous inspection. As a result, the school's leadership demonstrates good skills and knowledge appropriate to its role and fulfils its responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and that in this way it actively promotes the wellbeing of pupils. In particular, leaders and the proprietor have ensured that the implementation and oversight of recruitment procedures are effective and that toilet facilities are adequate.

3. Regulatory action points

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

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the headteacher, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the proprietor. He visited different areas of the school, talked with groups of pupils, and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mr Steven Popper

Reporting inspector