



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Additional Inspection Report**

**Solihull School**

**February 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Solihull School			
<b>DfE number</b>	334/6003			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1120597			
<b>Address</b>	Solihull School 793 Warwick Road Solihull West Midlands B91 3DJ			
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 705 0958			
<b>Email address</b>	admin@solsch.org.uk			
<b>Head</b>	Mr Charles Fillingham			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Damian Kelly			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Governors of Solihull School			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 18			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	1526			
	<b>EYFS</b>	45	<b>Infants</b>	81
	<b>Juniors</b>	292	<b>Seniors</b>	801
	<b>Sixth form</b>	307		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	27 February 2023			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Solihull School is an independent co-educational day school. In September 2020 it merged with St Martin's School and now educates pupils aged from 3 to 11, including an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting, at the St Martin's campus; and those aged from 11 to 18 at the Warwick Road campus. It is owned by a charitable company, whose trustees form the school's governing body. There are 217 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 27 pupils of whom eight receive additional support. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in November 2019. A new executive head took up his appointment in January 2023.

### Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) which focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs). The focus of the inspection is in the senior school.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18–21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints procedure)	<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 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively. Pupils confirm that they feel safe and have many adults to whom they can speak about any concerns which they have. When pupils express concerns they receive a suitable response and appropriate action is taken. The school acts in the best interests of the child. There is an appropriate online safety policy and pupils are effectively educated about online risks.
- 2.5 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have up-to-date, advanced training for their roles, carry out training for staff and provide regular safeguarding updates. Staff demonstrate an effective understanding of child-on-child abuse, including the vulnerability of pupils with protected characteristics. They are conversant with how to report any concerns they have about children or adults in the school community. They are aware of the need to report any incidents which might be viewed as child-on-child abuse or sexualised behaviour and recent training has reinforced this understanding. All staff and senior leaders understand the staff code of conduct. Senior leaders take appropriate action where concerns are raised that the code may have been breached. Staff have been trained appropriately in the importance of identifying low-level concerns and report them as appropriate. A centralised record of these concerns is kept by the head. Staff confirm that they would use the whistleblowing procedure without hesitation, should it be necessary.
- 2.6 The DSL keeps suitable centralised records for any pupils of concern and acts appropriately in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. They maintain close links with local children's services, the LADO and with other agencies including child and adolescent mental health services and the police. They seek advice from such agencies promptly when necessary and make timely referrals for any safeguarding concerns or allegations against adults. Senior leaders understand issues surrounding gender and gender transitioning and act appropriately to support pupils in this regard. The safeguarding governor provides effective, independent support and challenge for the safeguarding team and produces an annual report for the governing body. It is reviewed, interrogated and ratified by them, demonstrating effective oversight.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.
- 2.8 The school has a suitable recruitment policy which is effectively implemented. All required checks are carried out on new appointees before they begin working in the school. The checks are suitably recorded on the single central register of appointments and staff files contain all required documents.

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

- 2.9 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.

**Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]**

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The school has a suitable complaints policy which is implemented effectively. The policy outlines appropriate timescales for the management of complaints whether informal, formal or a panel hearing. Any panel hearing would consist of three members not directly involved in the complaint and include one member who is independent of the school. Complaints are recorded appropriately and include any action taken, whether or not a complaint was successful. The head keeps the record of complaints confidential.

**Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]**

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 Governance ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the standards are consistently met and they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

### **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 no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

## 4. Summary of evidence

4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a governor. They visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

### Inspectors

Mrs Kate McCarey

Reporting inspector

Mr Richard Lynn

Assistant reporting inspector