



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Avenue Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School

February 2024

School's details

School	Avenue Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School		
DfE number	309/6084		
Address	Avenue Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School 2 Highgate Avenue Highgate London N6 5RX		
Telephone number	020 8348 6815		
Email address	office@avenuepreprep.co.uk		
Principal	Mrs Mary Fysh		
Headteacher	Mrs Sarah Tapp		
Chair of proprietors	Mrs Mary Fysh		
Proprietor	Cantabile Limited		
Age range	2 to 7		
Number of pupils on roll	78		
	EYFS	51	Pre-prep 27
Date of inspection	1 February 2024		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

The Avenue Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school in a residential area of Highgate. The school consists of an early years setting catering for children in Nursery and Reception, and a pre-preparatory section for pupils in Years 1 and 2. There are nine pupils who receive additional support for their special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil has an education, health, and care (EHC) plan. Four pupils speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in June 2023.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.1 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 focused compliance and educational quality inspection in June 2023. 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 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (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 implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively, following current statutory guidance. This promotes the wellbeing of pupils appropriately, including children in early years. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy have received appropriate training, adhering to local safeguarding partnership procedures. All staff, including the principal, undergo regular update training. The staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities clearly; they emphasised the prompt recording and referral of concerns. The DSL consistently employs early intervention strategies, collaborating with parents and external agencies to offer additional support. Since the previous inspection, the school's leadership has ensured that staff understand risk assessment and can proficiently manage all facets of risk, including with regard to the needs of individual pupils.
- 2.5 The staff are attentive to the needs of pupils, including those with SEND. In early years, staff observe and respond to children, especially those unable to articulate their needs, ensuring their safety, happiness, and security. Similar care is extended to older pupils, with the school integrating the evaluation of pupils' academic and pastoral needs to provide comprehensive care for their wellbeing. The school has a suitable policy on the use of mobile phones and cameras in early years. Pupils feel that their concerns are heard and expressed confidence in having multiple adults with whom they can share concerns. Safeguarding records confirm that appropriate action is taken, when necessary, in response to pupils' concerns. Pupils affirm feeling happy and secure in the school environment. The proprietors ensure that all staff appointments align with safer recruitment requirements.
- 2.6 Staff clearly understand the staff code of conduct and are alert to raising related concerns, and how to use the whistleblowing policy. The school has established suitable mechanisms for reporting allegations against adults working with children, including registering low-level concerns. Systems for monitoring and filtering online activity are effective. Pupils confirmed that they develop an understanding of personal safety when online in computing and personal, social, and health education lessons. Proprietors are trained appropriately. They receive detailed updates on safeguarding and pastoral matters each term and liaise with senior leaders who have safeguarding responsibilities. This, together with an effective annual review of safeguarding enables comprehensive oversight of the school's arrangements.

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

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 In conjunction with the proprietors, senior leaders have carried out a detailed appraisal of the school's approach to risk management. The school now has a suitable risk assessment policy which outlines a systematic approach to the management of risk. It explains clearly the roles and duties of staff in identifying and mitigating potential risks. Suitably detailed risk assessments are now created for all parts of the premises, in-school activities, and educational visits. This includes daily checks of the

premises in early years. Individual pupils' particular needs are also considered when potential risks are identified. Staff spoke with assurance about how to identify risks in all forms and introduce control measures that reduce the risk of harm to the pupils.

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

2.9 The school meets the standard.

2.10 The proprietors and senior leaders have ensured that the action plan required following the previous inspection has been fully implemented. They possess proficient knowledge, enabling them to ensure that the standards are met consistently. They actively promote the wellbeing of their pupils and ensure that all safeguarding requirements are fulfilled, including in early years. They have taken the necessary steps to introduce a robust risk assessment policy and procedures and have provided their staff with appropriate training and support to identify and mitigate potential risks.

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 inspectors held discussions with the principal, the chair of the proprietors, the advisory board chair, senior leaders and other staff members. They visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.