

RIVERSTON SCHOOL

63/69 Eltham Road, Lee, London, SE12 8UF

DATE OF VISIT

01 July 2016

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Riverston School is a day school for boys and girls aged from 1 to 19. Since 1956 it has remained in the sole ownership of one family. The proprietor plays an active role in the school and is advised by a family member and the headmistress, who act as fellow directors of the company. In September 2015 the leadership and management of the school was strengthened by the appointment of an executive director who is chief executive of Riverston School and reports directly to the proprietor.

The school is located in linked Victorian houses in Lee Green, south-east London. It has developed a wide range of facilities and resources within the school and has good access to numerous local sports facilities. The school has 217 pupils, including 153 boys. There are 78 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Pupils come from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds, and a high proportion of placements are made by London Borough local authorities. The ability profile is mixed, in line with the school's aims to meet individual needs, including pupils with additional educational needs or with disabilities. There are 86 children with statements of special educational needs or education, health and care plans and many more receive specialist learning support. Seven pupils have English as an additional language.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced emergency visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the unannounced emergency visit on 7 July 2015. The focus of the visit was on welfare, health and safety of pupils, measures to guard against bullying, suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and also quality of leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b)]; EYFS 3.4 – 3.8 and 3.9 – 3.13; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO PARENTS

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.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The school meets the requirements.

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

The school meets the Regulation and the EYFS requirements.

The school's safeguarding policy and procedure is effectively implemented throughout the school, including in the EYFS. It has recently been reviewed by the governors and is closely monitored by the chief executive and senior leadership team, including the DSL, who meet regularly. It incorporates the latest guidance from *Keeping Children Safe in Education, July 2015*. All staff, including those recently appointed, have undergone appropriate training and have a sound knowledge of policy and procedure. Staff showed in discussion that they understand that safeguarding and pupils' welfare is everyone's responsibility, how to respond to a disclosure and that they can report directly to external agencies if they have a concern about the welfare of a pupil. They also understood the importance of teaching pupils about safeguarding including about keeping safe online.

The designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) have an excellent relationship with the local authority designated officer (LADO) who they consult frequently and also have close ties with a wide range of external agencies, including children's services. In discussion they showed a clear understanding of the importance of timely and appropriate referral providing examples of a range of recent cases all of which had been dealt with correctly. In particular, they were clear about the special procedures to be followed, including reporting to the relevant agencies, should an allegation be made against a member of staff.

Arrangements for safeguarding in EYFS, including the role of the DSL, are well defined and are understood by staff. Guidance on the use of electronic devices, including cameras and mobile telephones in EYFS is clear and is closely adhered to throughout the setting.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – measures to guard against bullying [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 10]

The school meets the Regulation.

The school's anti-bullying policy includes clear and appropriate guidance about the circumstances in which a case of bullying would be referred to an external agency such as the police or children's social care. In discussion staff showed a good understanding of such circumstances, particularly in cases where, for the safety of the child concerned, a bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern. Records showed that the guidance had been followed correctly in a recent cyber-bullying incident and occurrences are rare.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietor [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21]

The school meets the Regulations.

All the required recruitment checks have been undertaken in a timely manner. Prohibition from teaching checks have been completed for all relevant members of staff appointed since April 2012 and the date of any such check recorded correctly on the single central register (SCR). Similarly, prohibition from leadership and management checks have been undertaken, where necessary, and correctly recorded for staff appointed since 12 August 2015. The school's staff recruitment policy makes clear reference these prohibition checks. The implementation of the staff recruitment policy is closely monitored by the chief executive.

Quality of leadership and management of schools [Part 8, paragraph 34 (1) (a), (b) and (c)]

The school meets the Regulation.

The strengthening of the school's leadership and management team, through the appointment of a chief executive, together with the formalisation of governance structures has resulted in a pro-active approach to regulatory compliance. Policy and procedure, including those concerned with safeguarding and pupil welfare, are reviewed regularly and updated in the light of changes in regulatory requirements and the school's needs. Compliance, safeguarding and health and safety are discussed fully at governance meetings, where they are standing items, and also at leadership team meetings. The implementation of policy and procedure is closely and effectively monitored by the chief executive and the leadership team. Good communication, both formal and informal, between the members of the leadership and management team and within the staff body ensures consistency in implementation of policy and procedure. The high priority the school places on the promotion of the well-being of all pupils was clear from documentation seen, including minutes of meetings, and from discussions with staff and senior managers.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and of the Early Years Statutory Framework.