

Parkgate House School

80 Clapham Common, Clapham Common, Northside, London, SW4 9SD

Inspection dates

20 March 2015

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards not identified

Reason for the inspection

- The regulating authority asked Ofsted to conduct this emergency inspection as a result of concerns about how school leaders deal with instances of bullying. The inspector was asked to check the school's implementation of Part 3 of the Independent Schools Standards.
- The inspection was unannounced.

Main findings

- At the previous inspection, it was found that leaders identified any concerns about pupils' behaviour immediately, kept meticulous records and took appropriate action. Arrangements to keep children safe were found to be excellent. This continues to be the case. The arrangements which the school makes to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school continue to meet the relevant Independent School Standards. They have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The school's safeguarding and child protection policy was reviewed in July 2014. It is available on the school's website. This policy is well understood by staff and its implementation is effectively monitored by senior leaders.
- School leaders deal with instances of bullying thoroughly and rigorously. The anti-bullying strategy is kept under close and regular review. It is implemented according to the written policy. The deputy headteacher is responsible for pastoral matters. She receives daily updates from teachers and keeps detailed, meticulous notes of all concerns. As soon as anyone suspects that bullying may be occurring, a systematic and thorough investigation is begun and recorded in detail.
- Records sampled on inspection demonstrate that the views of parents, carers and pupils are thoroughly and regularly sought throughout the process of investigation. Pupils say they feel safe from bullying. They know where to get help if needed and understand the different types of bullying which might occur. There are no recent recorded instances of racist or other discriminatory behaviour among pupils. The few allegations of bullying which remain under investigation are being closely monitored. Once every two weeks, a meeting to discuss all pastoral issues is held between senior leaders and the proprietor. Time is devoted in staff meetings at least once a year to revisit the anti-bullying policy. This also provides opportunities for staff to contribute to reviewing and improving it.
- The curriculum includes opportunities for pupils to learn social skills aimed at developing their resilience in relationships. The standard relating to the implementation of an anti-bullying strategy continues to be met.
- The proprietor has ensured that the written behaviour policy is kept under regular review and is implemented properly. The policy sets out a range of sanctions which are to be used in the event of any misbehaviour. A senior leader keeps detailed notes of all such instances, which are few, and evidence seen demonstrates that these are followed up thoroughly.
- Parents and carers spoken to during the inspection expressed positive views about relationships between pupils. They have confidence in school leaders and the staff, and are satisfied with their response to any matters of concern.
- The school administration and compliance manager is responsible for making sure policies related to welfare, health and safety are effectively implemented and kept under review. Her

records are meticulous and very well organised. A premises committee considers the effectiveness of implementation each term and identifies any lessons to be learned from incidents recorded. This demonstrates a reflective and developmental approach to safety management.

- The health and safety policy sets out responsibilities and procedures in great detail. It also defines the consultation process for review and explains how new employees will be informed about procedures. The policy states that new staff must confirm in writing that they have read and understood it. Records show that school leaders make sure this happens. New staff spoken to understand current policy and practice.
- The premises are secure, tidy and well maintained. Outdoor spaces are free of litter and there is no sign of damage. There have been recent improvements to the outdoor play provision. Attention to detail on safety matters is evident. For instance, metal grilles have been placed over voids below windows in the playground. Outdoor play equipment is regularly inspected and maintained, and detailed records of this are kept.
- The proprietor has ensured that arrangements for pupils to enter, leave and move around the premises are suitable. Outdoor play areas are supervised adequately. Adults are vigilant and position themselves well while supervising outdoor play. They initiate conversations with pupils and promote very positive relationships.
- Pupils use a staircase to gain access to the three floors of the building which they use. They are taught how to use the stairs safely. Pupils are well supervised during movements around the school and at key transition times in the school day. Ratios of staff to pupils in the early years and during the lunch period are suitable and show regard to the needs of individual pupils. Administrative staff check that all staff due to supervise are available. This provides assurance that the right people are in the right place at the right time.
- The admission and attendance register is held electronically. It includes all necessary information set out in an accessible manner. Destination schools are clearly recorded on the register for pupils who leave the school.
- Risk assessments for all activities are rigorously completed and checked for quality. For example, the assessment for a recent visit to Hyde Park includes a thorough analysis of all potential risks and identifies practical steps to reduce them.
- A fire risk assessment is completed annually by an external provider. Records seen demonstrate that recommendations from these reviews are considered and acted upon promptly. Fire escape routes and assembly points are well signposted and unobstructed. Fire drills are carried out regularly and recorded. Classrooms have clear guidelines on display explaining what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Staff conduct and record regular and systematic checks on the supplies of first-aid equipment. The first-aid policy and accident records have been recently reviewed. Staff who have received training in administration of first aid are clearly identified and their training is up to date.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements

Inspection team

Andrew Wright, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Parkgate House School is an independent day school for girls and boys aged from two to 11 years.
- The school was established in 1986 by the present Principal.
- It is smaller than the average-sized primary school.
- The school prepares its pupils for entry to selective independent secondary schools.
- There are no disabled pupils or pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan.
- A very small minority of pupils have English as an additional language. Over half of the pupils are of a White British ethnic background. The remaining pupils have a wide range of backgrounds, the largest groups being of White Western European and Other White backgrounds.
- The school was last inspected in October 2014 when its overall effectiveness was judged to be good. The behaviour and safety of pupils were judged to be outstanding. The school was also found to meet all the Independent School Standards except those concerning the provision of a medical room.
- The school's ethos is based on 'providing teaching that caters for each child individually, and empowers and encourages all children to think for themselves'.

School details

Unique reference number	101091
Inspection number	463322
DfE registration number	212/6397
Type of school	Primary
School status	Independent
Age range of pupils	2–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	218
Number of part time pupils	59
Proprietor	Catherine Shanley
Headteacher	Malcolm McKinlay
Date of previous school inspection	21–23 October 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£5,100 – £13,350
Telephone number	020 7350 2452
Email address	office@parkgate-school.co.uk

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