

Fulham School

200 Greyhound Road, London W14 9SD

Inspection date

25 February 2021

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change relating to the school provision is implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b) and 32(1)(c)

- Detailed policies related to health and safety and to support pupils' welfare are in place. The policies reflect current government guidance.
- Leaders updated their policies and practices to consider the additional safeguarding and welfare challenges posed by COVID-19 (coronavirus), the national lockdowns and online learning.
- Leaders ensure that all staff receive comprehensive safeguarding and welfare training as part of their induction and at regular intervals through the year. The safeguarding team and governors meet regularly to review their work and share good practice.
- As part of the curriculum, staff teach pupils about risks and how to keep themselves safe.
- The school's safeguarding policy is suitable. Copies of all policies are available on the school's website.

Paragraphs 11, 12

- The school has a raft of health and safety policies which leaders implement effectively. Leaders regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of policy implementation.
- Leaders have established cycles for commissioning external specialists to carry out compliance checks and risk assessments across the school. These include checking electrical and gas installations, firefighting equipment and emergency lighting, for example.
- Leaders carry out regular safety checks and keep a record of these. These include fire alarm tests, evacuation drills and checks on the general state of repair of the buildings. Leaders rectify any deficiencies that they identify.
- Leaders have received certification from the building inspector that the proposed new site is compliant with health and safety requirements and fire regulations.

- Premises staff and some subject leaders have attended training from the contractor on the new site's safety installations and equipment. All staff who will be working in the new building have received on-site training for health and safety, including fire safety.
- Two trained fire wardens will be based at the new site. Leaders have also appointed staff teams as fire sweepers to ensure that, in the event of a fire, all staff, visitors and pupils have evacuated safely.

Paragraph 14

- Senior leaders are routinely at the gate to meet and greet pupils at the start of each day. Pupils begin the day with form time. This is a pastoral session for staff to check pupils' well-being, support their mental health and preparedness for learning. There is continuous supervision of pupils throughout the day.
- Leaders have made additional arrangements for the return to school following the national lockdown. Leaders have established additional staff supervision rotas to ensure that pupils stay safe in accordance with the school's welfare COVID-19 practices.

Paragraph 16, 16(a), 16(b)

- The school's risk assessment policies are up to date. Leaders use them as working documents. They regularly review, amend and update these as appropriate.
- Leaders identify relevant risks and respond in an appropriate manner. For example, the school has a comprehensive risk assessment and action plan for the reopening of the school after the national lockdown.
- Leaders have started a programme of risk assessments for the proposed new site. Regular risk assessments will take place according to an ongoing cycle, which is already well established at the other two sites.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met if the implementation of the material change is approved.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All paragraphs

- Senior leaders and governors undertake appropriate training to ensure that they understand safe recruitment practices. They make all the relevant checks on staff, including temporary staff from supply agencies, contractors and volunteers. Governors ensure that they make checks under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 to verify the suitability of all those with a management responsibility.
- The single central register is in place. It records all the relevant information.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met if the implementation of the material change is approved.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b), 23(1)(c), 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b), 24(1)(c), 24(2), 25, 26, 27, 27(a), 27(b), 28(1), 28(1)(a), 28(1)(b), 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 28(2), 28(2)(a), 28(2)(b), 29(1), 29(1)(a), 29(1)(b)

- The proposed new site has undergone a rebuild. The building is modern, light and airy. Its state of repair, cleanliness, acoustics and lighting are of a high standard.
- There are toilets that lock from the inside for the sole use of pupils. These areas have hot and cold running water. The temperature of the water does not pose a scalding hazard.
- The medical room meets requirements and is adjacent to a toilet and washing facilities. Drinking water is clearly marked and readily available.
- The classrooms are suitable for the delivery of the curriculum, including specialist subjects.
- As with the other school sites, leaders intend to deliver the physical education curriculum at specialist off-site facilities. The outdoor area is small. Leaders plan to take pupils to nearby parks for leisure purposes.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met if the implementation of the material change is approved.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)

- The headteacher, governors and senior leaders have a firm knowledge and understanding of the independent school standards. They have robust systems in place to continuously check implementation of all the standards and other statutory requirements.
- Policies for safeguarding and health and safety are appropriate for the range of pupils across the school sites.
- Leaders actively promote the mental health, well-being and safety of pupils. Staff ensure that pupils are suitably supervised. They take good care of pupils' pastoral needs.
- The standards in this part are likely to be met if the implementation of the material change is approved.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

School details

Unique reference number	131165
DfE registration number	205/6390
Inspection number	10178861

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Other independent school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	Fulham Prep School Holdings Limited
Chair	Nick Wergan
Headteacher	Christopher Cockerill
Annual fees (day pupils)	£18,420–£21,567
Telephone number	020 7386 2444
Website	www.fulham.school
Email address	prepadmin@fulham.school
Date of previous standard inspection	3–5 March 2020

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	4 to 18	Not applicable	Not applicable
Number of pupils on the school roll	670	940	870

Reason for inspector's recommendations

Phase one of the rebuild of the new additional school site has just been completed. There are sufficient classrooms and toilet facilities, at this stage, to accommodate an extra 150 pupils above the school's current capacity of 720 across its other two sites. The proprietors expect phase two building works to take place in the summer of 2022, when they propose to add three more classrooms and additional toilet facilities.

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Mixed
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	670	940
Number of part-time pupils	None	None
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	116	150
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	None	Not applicable
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	None	Not applicable

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	71	92
Number of part-time teaching staff	13	17
Number of staff in the welfare provision	16	20

Information about this school

- Fulham School is a non-selective, co-educational independent school in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The school is registered to cater for pupils aged from four to 18 years.
- The headteacher was appointed in September 2020.

- The school plans to have its first intake into the sixth form in September 2021.
- There are few pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupils are disadvantaged.
- The school does not use alternative provision.
- The school's last standard inspection took place in March 2020, when the school was judged to be good. All independent school standards were met.
- The school currently operates on two sites. The pre-prep site and the prep and senior site, approximately one and a half miles apart. The pre-prep school is located in Fulham High Street. Pupils aged from seven to 16 years are based in Greyhound Road.
- If this material change is approved by the Department for Education (DfE), leaders plan to move the senior phase, with the new sixth form, into the additional premises at Chesilton Road, London SW6 5AA, which were visited on this inspection.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the DfE during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Some of the inspection was conducted remotely. This was due to changes made to inspection activity during this period of the COVID-19 outbreak. Owing to the third national lockdown at the time of the inspection, the inspector only visited the school for a limited time.
- The inspector gathered evidence to check whether the school is likely to meet the independent school standards by scrutinising documents submitted by the leaders. These included the school's safeguarding policy, risk assessments and other health and safety documentation. The inspector held several virtual meetings with senior leaders and the chair of governors. He visited the proposed new school for a brief tour of the site and to check the single central register of staff suitability.
- This inspection was carried out at the request of the DfE, the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to check whether the school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards and other requirements in its proposed new additional premises and its request to increase its maximum capacity to educate 940 pupils.
- This was the first inspection of the proposed material change.

Inspection team

David Radomsky, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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