

Liberty Woodland School

Morden Lodge, Morden Hall Road, Morden SM4 5JD

Inspection date

24 August 2021

Overall outcome

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

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraph 7

- Designated leaders have a strong working knowledge about keeping their pupils safe. They are in the process of ensuring that the school's safeguarding policy and practice pay regard to the incoming September 2021 statutory guidance, including in relation to sexual violence and harassment. Leaders recruit staff safely, induct and train staff thoroughly, and refer and record concerns meticulously.
- Although the timing of this inspection meant that discussions with pupils could not take place, the available evidence confirms that the culture of safeguarding at Liberty Woodland School remains strong.

Paragraphs 11, 12, 14 and 16

- External fire risk assessors and the London Fire Brigade have visited and advised on the most suitable ways to ensure fire safety at the school. New fire-safety infrastructure has been installed and commissioned throughout the premises, including emergency lighting, fire extinguishers and an alarm system. Subject to completion of a very few final minor works, the new premises are likely to be compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- Supervision of up to 85 pupils is likely to be suitable because leaders are committed to maintaining the school's high adult-to-pupil ratio.
- The school's updated policies for health and safety and risk assessment are thorough and likely to be implemented well across the new premises. Leaders have assessed the many risks presented by the new premises and are taking suitable action to minimise them. The overall premises risk assessment is supported by activities risk assessments and thorough daily site checks.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

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

All paragraphs

- The school's single central record of vetting checks remains compliant, as it accurately records the required checks on the proprietors, governors and staff.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

All paragraphs

- The school's new premises include a Georgian country house, a number of converted outbuildings and various learning areas set in three acres of National Trust grounds. The site includes 'wilderness', 'pollinator' and 'production' zones. These areas include, for example, a herb garden, duck pond, beehives, wildflower meadow, greenhouse, 'food forest' and an animal husbandry area. The main house provides multi-purpose learning spaces, as well as a kitchen for pupils. Suitable outdoor classrooms have been constructed around the site. There is ample room for outdoor learning, recreation and physical education.
- The premises are securely fenced and areas of potential danger, such as the River Wandle and the central pond, have been fenced and their use thoroughly assessed for the risks they present.
- The premises' acoustics and indoor and outdoor lighting are likely to be compliant with the requirements.
- The toilet, washing and medical room facilities are all new and likely to be suitable. The washing facilities include safely regulated hot water supplies, and drinking water supplies are suitably labelled.
- The site is extensive and, according to the planning permission granted, can comfortably accommodate 132 pupils. However, leaders only wish to extend their maximum number on roll to 85 at this time.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32(1)(c)

- This requirement continues to be met because a safeguarding policy is available on the school's website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34

- The school's leaders have planned thoroughly and effectively to relocate Liberty Woodland School to new premises, and to cater for up to 85 pupils.
- Leaders have strong working knowledge and understanding of the independent school standards.
- The independent school standard in this part, as in all the other parts checked, is met and likely to continue to be met, if the material changes are implemented.

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 that are relevant to the material change.

School details

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Unique reference number | 147455 |
| DfE registration number | 314/6029 |
| Inspection number | 10203421 |

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 | Primary day school |
| School status | Independent school |
| Proprietor | Little Forest Folk School Ltd |
| Chair | Leanna Barrett |
| Headteacher | Leanna Barrett |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £13,485 |
| Telephone number | 020 8648 9775 |
| Website | www.libertywoodlandschool.com |
| Email address | info@libertywoodlandschool.com |
| Date of previous standard inspection | 10–12 March 2020 |

Pupils

| | School's current position | School's proposal | Inspector's recommendation |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Age range of pupils | 4 to 11 | No change | Not applicable |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 42 | 85 | 85 |

Pupils

| | School's current position | School's proposal |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Gender of pupils | Mixed | No change |
| Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age | 42 | 85 |
| Number of part-time pupils | 0 | No change |
| Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities | 11 | Up to 25 |
| Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan | 1 | Up to 10 |
| Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan | 0 | Up to 10 |

Staff

| | School's current position | School's proposal |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff | 10 | 13 |
| Number of part-time teaching staff | 4 | No change |
| Number of staff in the welfare provision | 1 | No change |

Information about this school

- Liberty Woodland School is an independent primary day school.
- The school relocates to its new, sole premises at Morden Lodge, Morden Hall Road, Morden SM4 5JD from September 2021.
- The school's most recent inspection was its first full standard inspection in March 2020.

Information about this inspection

- This was the first material change inspection commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) to consider Liberty Woodland School's application to make two material changes to its registration agreement. The requested changes were to relocate to new premises and to increase the maximum number of pupils to 85.
- The inspection was conducted with two days' notice.
- The DfE requested that the inspector consider whether particular independent school standards contained within Parts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.
- The inspector had meetings with the chair of the proprietorial body (who is also the headteacher) and the designated safeguarding lead.
- The inspector toured the new premises and reviewed documentation, including in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, fire safety, and risk assessment.
- There were no recent responses on Ofsted Parent View to consider.

Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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