

# First Bridge School

Unit 17, Block J1 Station Court, Imperial Wharf, 1 Townmead Road, London SW6 2PY

## Inspection dates

4 September 2025

### 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

Part 6. Provision of information

*Paragraphs 7 to 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16 to 16(b), 32(1) and 32(1)(c)*

- The school's culture of safeguarding continues to be strong. The safeguarding policy, published on the school's website, is up to date with the latest statutory guidance, including 'Keeping children safe in education' (September 2025). Arrangements for managing allegations and concerns, recruiting and training staff are suitable.
- The school's arrangements for health and safety, fire safety, and risk assessment, pay close attention to detail. The health and safety and risk assessment policies are implemented well. The premises are clean and well maintained. All the required checks on the building, electrics and fire safety infrastructure are completed in a timely way and suitably logged. Risk assessments of the premises are thorough and effective in minimising risks to pupils. Leaders carry out regularly health and safety checks and evacuation drills.
- Throughout the day, all pupils are under adult supervision. Almost all pupils receive one-to-one adult support. A small group of pupils receive one-to-two adult support.
- The standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

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

*Paragraphs 18(1) to 18(2)(e), 18(3), 20(6) to 21(3)(b) and 21(6)*

- The school's single central register of pre-employment checks is compliant and reflects the strong safer recruitment process. All the required checks for adults responsible for and working at the school are dated in line with the latest requirements.
- The standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

## Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraphs 23(1) to 23(1)(b), 24(1) to 24(1)(b), 24(2) to 29(1)(b)*

- The school site is very well resourced and maintained. Lighting, acoustics, and medical room facilities are all suitable. Toilet and washing facilities are suitable. Labelled drinking water supplies are available and the hot water supply is safely regulated. There is a suitable outdoor space for teaching physical education and for recreation.
- The organisation's four classrooms are currently shared between the separately registered early years provision and the school. On approval of this material change, leaders intend to close the early years provision and use all the classrooms for the school only. With the available space across the site, this plan is suitable in accommodating up to 55 pupils.
- The standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and implemented.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

*Paragraph 34(1) to 34(1)(c)*

- The proprietor body and leaders have carefully considered how they can extend the school's capacity by merging their early years centre and school.
- Leaders have very well-established routines to monitor the school's compliance with the independent school standards and associated requirements thoroughly.
- The standard in this part is likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved and 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 | 149762   |
| DfE registration number | 205/6005 |
| Inspection number       | 10417871 |

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 special school   |
| School status                        | Independent day school   |
| Proprietor                           | First Bridge Group Limited   |
| Chair                                | Aleksandra Zerkalova   |
| Headteacher                          | Mikaela Green  |
| Annual fees (day pupils)             | £85,000 to £95,000   |
| Telephone number                     | 02033013985  |
| Website                              | <a href="http://www.firstbridgecentre.com">www.firstbridgecentre.com</a>               |
| Email address                        | <a href="mailto:admissions@firstbridgecentre.com">admissions@firstbridgecentre.com</a> |
| Date of previous standard inspection | 16 to 18 April 2024  |

## Pupils

|                                     | School's current position | School's proposal | Inspector's recommendation |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Age range of pupils                 | 2 to 9                    | No change         | Not applicable             |
| Number of pupils on the school roll | 31                        | 60                | 55                         |

### *Reason for inspector's recommendations*

The school's available space, especially when considering the significant numbers of adults deployed to support pupils, is likely to accommodate a maximum number of 55 pupils comfortably, rather than 60.

## Pupils

|  | School's current position | School's proposal |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Gender of pupils   | Mixed                     | No change         |
| Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age  | 25                        | Up to 60          |
| Number of part-time pupils   | 1                         | No change         |
| Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities                              | 31                        | Up to 60          |
| Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan                               | 29                        | Up to 60          |
| Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan | 29                        | Up to 60          |

## Staff

|   | School's current position | School's proposal |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff | 52                        | 66                |
| Number of part-time teaching staff            | 0                         | 0                 |

## Information about this school

- First Bridge School is an independent special day school in Hammersmith and Fulham for pupils with autism. Almost all pupils have education, health and care plans.
- The Department for Education (DfE) approved the school's application to extend its age range from four to nine to two to nine in August 2025. If the DfE approves the school's application to increase its maximum capacity, the wider organisation's applied behaviour analysis clinic, First Bridge Centre, which is inspected separately by Ofsted as an early years provider, will close. Children attending, and staff working at, First Bridge Centre, will then transfer to First Bridge School.

- The school's most recent standard inspection was in April 2024. Since then, the school's latest inspection was to consider a material change application in September 2024.
- The school makes no use of alternative provision.

## Information about this inspection

- The DfE commissioned this inspection to consider the school's application to increase the number of pupils it admits from 35 to 60.
- This was the first inspection to consider the school's material change application.
- The inspection was announced with two days of notice.
- The inspector considered whether the relevant requirements in parts 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the independent school standards are likely to continue to be met if the material change is approved.
- The inspector met with a range of senior leaders, including the chair of the proprietor body. The inspector had a tour of the premises, observed pupils learning, and considered a range of evidence, including documents related to health and safety, risk assessment and fire safety.
- The inspection also considered the school's safeguarding arrangements, including pre-employment checks recorded on the school's single central record.

## Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

### **Parent View**

You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk), or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2025