

Inglebrook School

Independent School

Inspection report

DCSF Registration Number	384/6112
Unique Reference Number	108304
Inspection number	321815
Inspection dates	25-26 June 2008
Reporting inspector	Christine Inkster HMI

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002 (as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005).

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, in order to advise the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Information about the school

Inglebrook School is an independent day school and nursery for boys and girls between the ages of two and 11 years. There are 107 pupils on roll. The school was established in 1963 by the current principal. The school is situated in purpose-built accommodation in the town of Pontefract. The school states it is a '*Christian school, respectful of all faiths*' and pupils of all abilities attend the school. The school aim is '*to pursue educational excellence while encouraging all pupils to fulfil their potential in a happy, caring Christian environment*'. The school motto is 'Striving for Excellence'.

The school was previously inspected in May 2004 and the Early Years provision was inspected in 2005.

Evaluation of the school

The quality of education at Inglebrook School is good and in some areas outstanding. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding and is reflected in the excellent behaviour of all pupils. The quality of teaching and assessment and the curriculum are good enabling pupils to make good progress, particularly in English and mathematics. The quality of provision in the Foundation Stage is very good. There have been improvements in the curriculum since the last inspection, particularly in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) with the provision of an ICT suite. Although staff are very committed to caring for pupils and there are high levels of supervision, the school does not meet several of the regulations in respect of welfare, health and safety and consequently this area is inadequate. There is a small number of other regulations which the school does not meet.

Quality of education

The quality of the curriculum is good. The provision for teaching basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics is very good. The school teaches all subjects of the National Curriculum in an effective manner. French is taught to pupils from Year 4 onwards and there are residential visits to France once every two years. Although

there are appropriate plans and schemes of work in place to teach the curriculum effectively, there is currently no overall curriculum policy.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is very good. It is planned well and provides an exciting and interesting curriculum which fosters pupils' desire to learn. It lays good foundations for future learning, particularly in developing handwriting skills. It successfully incorporates all six areas of learning and there are many opportunities for pupils to make choices in their activities both indoors and outdoors. Pupils work co-operatively with one another and there are good opportunities for pupils to develop their skills in speaking and listening and also reading and writing.

The curriculum is enhanced by specialist teaching in sport and music. Pupils have lessons in gymnastics, dance, football and swimming and there are opportunities to learn to play musical instruments. Pupils are successfully involved in local music festivals as well as participating in concerts, often to raise funds for charities. The school arranges visits to local places of interest to enhance the curriculum in addition to residential visits in London and France for older pupils. There are also a wide selection of extra-curricular activities, which many pupils enjoy, including art club, ballet and tap dancing.

Teaching and assessment are good. The quality of teaching and learning for Foundation Stage pupils is very good and the needs of pupils are met very well because of detailed observations and assessments being carried out on the progress made by individual pupils. Evaluations of teaching and learning are carried out very effectively in the Foundation Stage and Year 1 identifying the next steps in pupils' learning, but this is not always consistent across the school. However, because classes are small, teachers know pupils well and cater appropriately for their needs. Although there is now a framework in place to assess pupils' work regularly, the system of tracking the progress of pupils is not yet fully effective. Teachers have very good relationships with pupils and also very high expectations of behaviour and consequently pupils are highly motivated and keen to learn. Teachers have good subject knowledge and engage pupils in their learning by providing a range of stimulating and interesting activities. Pupils respond well to teachers' skilful use of questions, which develop their thinking skills.

Pupils make good progress from their starting points and achieve well by the time they leave the school. They make particularly good progress in basic skills including reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils are confident and articulate because of extensive opportunities to develop their skills in speaking and listening. There are examinations held twice a year and reports are provided for parents on the progress made by their child. There are weekly tests of spelling, mental arithmetic and multiplication tables and regular assessments in other subjects. Standards in writing are high throughout the school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is outstanding. Pupils' behaviour is also outstanding and they are polite, helpful and friendly. They co-operate well with one another and there are excellent relationships between staff and pupils, creating the optimum conditions for learning. Pupils are highly motivated and join in all school activities with great interest and enthusiasm. There is a calm, purposeful working atmosphere in all classes and pupils are very confident and have high self-esteem. They enjoy opportunities to take on responsibilities and older pupils show particular care for younger children. Pupils contribute to creating school rules and even the youngest pupils in the Foundation Stage understand that rules are to be respected and followed. Pupils greatly enjoy their learning as shown by their good attendance. They are highly aware of how to contribute to community life by taking part in a wide range of fund-raising activities, for example, 'Denim for Diabetes UK' held on the day of the inspection. They also participate in singing in the community and for example in a local Music Festival.

Pupils develop their knowledge and awareness of public institutions and services in England effectively through the curriculum. They have visits from the police and fire services and have had visits to the Houses of Parliament with their local Member of Parliament. Pupils also visited 10 Downing Street and wrote to the Prime Minister to gain permission to do so. The school teaches pupils to appreciate diversity through the curriculum and they learn about other faiths and cultures, particularly in religious education and in assemblies. Pupils report that there is no racism in the school and they clearly show respect for others. Their spiritual development is enhanced through their participation in art, drama and music and during assemblies when there are moments for prayer and reflection. Such experiences help to prepare pupils well for adult life and for their future economic and general well-being.

Welfare, health and safety of the pupils

The school's provision for the welfare, health and safety of its pupils is inadequate. The provision for children under three years old and out of school care require registration with Ofsted and forms are currently being completed. However, there are no concerns in respect of the quality of care and education provided for pupils under three years old. Whilst the staff are highly committed to ensuring the safety of pupils at all times in school and levels of supervision are very good, there are some health and safety issues to be addressed as a matter of urgency. These include the repair of railings near fire exits on the school premises which were damaged recently due to vandalism and the use of the school yard by a local business to park cars during the school day. Whilst there is an overall policy for the health and safety of pupils on school visits, risk assessments are not fully in place for each individual visit. The school has not had electrical equipment tested recently, although arrangements were in place for this to be done within the week following the inspection. Although an external inspection has taken place in respect of compliance with fire regulations, the school does not have a letter stating that

compliance is up-to-date and that actions required from the previous inspection over three years ago have been addressed. The designated teacher for child protection and all other staff have not yet attended up-to-date training, although steps are being taken to enrol the former on a course. Two staff have completed first aid training courses and all accidents and incidents are dealt with and recorded appropriately.

The school promotes healthy eating by providing nutritious lunches and pupils also bring healthy packed lunches from home. However, although fruit is provided at lunchtime, fruit snacks are not provided throughout the day, except in the early years. Water and milk are available for pupils to drink. The curriculum provides well for sport and exercise and there are a number of extra-curricular activities which also promote the health of pupils including football, netball, gymnastics and dance. Pupils say that they feel safe at school and know that they can talk to any member of staff if they have a problem. Pupils say there is no bullying and the very few minor disagreements are dealt with promptly and effectively by the school.

The school complies with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2002 and a three-year accessibility plan is in place.

Suitability of the proprietor and staff

The school carries out checks to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. However, one member of staff, although checked in a previous situation when working with children, did not have a specific check completed for employment at the school. The necessary checks regarding the identity, medical fitness, previous employment history, character references and, where appropriate, qualifications and professional references of staff complied with requirements at the time of appointment and the vast majority have been in post for many years. However, the school is aware that these checks must be carried out for any new appointments. The single central register is maintained as required.

School's premises and accommodation

The school comprises a purpose-built building providing a hall, ICT suite and four classrooms in the main building and three separate buildings housing upper junior pupils, Kindergarten and Nursery pupils. There is a paved recreational area, but no grassed area on site. However, the school has access to a local sports field, providing a grassed area for some sports. The building is safe, conducive to learning and generally complies with requirements but there are some areas which require improvement including the health and safety issues identified above in respect of the repair of railings and car parking. In addition, the decoration of several classrooms and the hall does not meet requirements.

Provision of information for parents, carers and others

The school provides parents, carers and others with an appropriate range of information through the school prospectus, an attractive website and regular newsletters.

Procedures for handling complaints

The school has a brief complaints policy and a set of procedures which meet all of the regulations. The school has taken steps to ensure that all parents are aware of these. There have been no formal complaints within the last 12 months or indeed within the last 45 years.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets all of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended January 2005, with the exception of those listed below.

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of the curriculum (standard 1) and must:

- establish an overall curriculum policy (paragraph 1(2)).

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety (standard 3) and must:

- ensure that the child protection officer receives updated training which is then extended to all staff, in compliance with DCSF guidance *Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education* (paragraph 3(2)(b))
- ensure individual risk assessments are carried out for each educational visit (paragraph 3(2)(c))
- ensure that it pays regard to the DSCF guidance *Health and Safety: responsibilities and powers* in respect of electrical appliance testing, repairs to railings and car parking (paragraph 3(4))
- ensure that there is an up-to-date fire report, risk assessment and action plan (paragraph 3(5)).

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of suitability of proprietor and staff (standard 4) and must:

- prior to the confirmation of the appointment of all staff, ensure that they have been checked with the Criminal Records Bureau at an enhanced level, specifically for the post within the school (paragraph 4(2)(b)).

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of the premises and accommodation (standard 5) and must:

- improve the standard of decoration in the hall and three classrooms (paragraph 5(q)).

School details

Name of school	Inglebrook School		
DCSF number	384/6112		
Unique reference number	108304		
Type of school	Independent day school and nursery		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1963		
Age range of pupils	2-11		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 32	Girls: 51	Total: 83
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 10	Girls: 14	Total: 24
Annual fees (day pupils)	£3,408		
Address of school	Northgate Close Pontefract West Yorkshire WF8 1JL		
Telephone number	01977 700120		
Email address	inglebrook@hotmail.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs J Bellamy		
Proprietor	Mrs J Bellamy		
Reporting inspector	Christine Inkster HMI		
Dates of inspection	25-26 June 2008		