

# Progress monitoring and material change inspection report

28 February 2025

## **Lewes Old Grammar School**

Tyne House  
140 High Street  
Lewes  
BN7 1XS

The Independent Schools Inspectorate is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect association independent schools in England. Our inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met, collectively referred to in this report as 'the Standards'.

## Inspection outcome

The school meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

The school has also requested a material change request to increase pupil numbers from 675 to 710. The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is recommended that the material change be approved.

## Inspection findings

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16(a) and 16(b); EYFS 3.5 and 3.7

1. Senior leaders ensure effective implementation of the school's safeguarding procedures. The designated safeguarding leader (DSL) is a senior leader with sufficient authority to carry out the role effectively. The safeguarding team is also made up of a further three deputy DSLs including one with responsibility for the early years. The safeguarding and pastoral leaders meet every two weeks to monitor any concerns including the contextual needs of pupils.
2. Safeguarding leaders maintain suitably detailed records in line with statutory requirements. Leaders take timely and appropriate action, including referrals for early help and advice from the local authority children's services. The safeguarding team communicate effectively with parents and put in place suitable support for individual pupils including, when needed, personal welfare and safety plans.
3. The safeguarding team are trained to the required level and they have a detailed understanding of inter-agency and partnership working. The training of staff, including those who work in the early years, is well planned and comprehensive. The induction programme for staff who are new to the school is similarly rigorous and reflects local requirements. Staff know the pupils well and are able to identify pupils in need of support. They understand how to report concerns, including any that may involve child-on-child abuse, and the importance of prompt action to follow up concerns when they arise.
4. Leaders ensure that there are detailed procedures in place for handling any allegations made against staff. Leaders have undergone extensive training to help ensure that their processes are robust. Suitable arrangements are now in place and there is now effective communication with appropriate external agencies and in line with statutory requirements. Leaders monitor low-level concerns about adults carefully. Leaders take prompt action to address concerns, including providing members of staff with additional support and training. Leaders understand reporting thresholds, seek advice from the local authority designated officer (LADO) and make referrals as required. Staff have a clear understanding of what constitutes a low-level concern and will report issues, no matter how small, to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained.
5. There are suitable filtering and monitoring systems in place in relation to the school's internet. The filtering system is tested for effectiveness on a regular basis. Alerts from the monitoring software are investigated by the safeguarding team. Records are clearly categorised with appropriate action taken if misuse of the internet has taken place.
6. Pupils have trusted adults in school to whom they can turn if they have concerns or worries. They know that staff will always listen to them and take appropriate action. There are also systems in place which enable pupils to share concerns anonymously with staff. Pupils learn how to keep

themselves safe, including online, through the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum and assembly programme.

7. Trustees maintain effective oversight of the school's implementation of the safeguarding policy. A designated trustee takes responsibility for overseeing the work of the safeguarding team and visits the school regularly to meet with staff and pupils. The designated leader for safeguarding reports on safeguarding to the board of trustees on a termly basis. The trustees formally review the safeguarding policy on at least an annual basis. Since the last inspection the trustees have actively monitored the implementation of the new protocols for managing allegations against staff, and any subsequent disciplinary procedures that may arise.
8. Leaders ensure that the school's health and safety policy is implemented effectively. The school ensures that all health and safety matters are dealt with promptly. A detailed site maintenance plan is in place which is informed by the regular inspection of buildings and school facilities. Qualified contractors are used to ensure the regular and effective servicing of equipment. A comprehensive programme of staff training is in place. Accidents and near misses are recorded appropriately to allow patterns to be identified and suitable action taken. The health and safety committee has effective oversight of all matters pertaining to health and safety across the school.
9. There is a suitable fire prevention strategy and a fire risk assessment is in place. A suitably qualified consultant updates the risk assessments on an annual basis and an appropriate action plan is in place to reduce the risk of fire. Fire procedures are understood by staff and pupils, who are regularly provided with suitable training and guidance. Fire drills take place on a frequent basis throughout the year. Fire equipment, alarms, emergency lighting and suitable signage are serviced and maintained appropriately.
10. Pupils, including children in the early years setting, are supervised effectively by an appropriate number of suitably qualified and well-trained staff. Detailed supervision rotas for staff are appropriate for the nature of the two school sites and the activities involved. This includes supervision of pupils during break and lunchtimes.
11. The school implements a suitable risk assessment policy effectively. Staff are trained thoroughly to identify and manage risk. Regularly reviewed risk assessments are in place for all aspects of school life including educational visits, teaching facilities, site security and the movement of pupils around the school site. Risks associated with the planned increase in pupil numbers across each year group have been suitably assessed and where needed appropriate mitigation measures put in place, such as increasing the number of staff on supervision duty during the school day.
12. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR Paragraphs 18, 19, 20 and 21

13. The school implements its safer recruitment policy effectively. Staff involved in the appointment of staff receive frequent safer recruitment training. The required pre-appointment checks on staff, and trustees are carried out appropriately.
14. A single central record of all appointments is accurately maintained. All the required checks are completed prior to adults starting work and having contact with pupils. Staff personnel files are well organised and include a checklist which ensures all the checks have been completed. If an enhanced

Disclosure and Barring Service check is delayed, leaders put in place an appropriate risk assessment provided all other pre-appointment checks have been completed.

15. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

## **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

ISSR Paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29

16. The school has suitable provision for toilet and washing facilities across the two sites which provide suitable privacy for pupils. The numbers of toilets are sufficient for the planned increase in pupil numbers.
17. The school has suitably equipped health accommodation for medical examination, treatment of injuries and care of pupils who are unwell. The provision for the care of pupils who are ill, on both sites, has close access to toilets and washing facilities.
18. The school's buildings and outdoor spaces are well maintained as a result of regular monitoring. The size and number of classrooms, as well as communal spaces, are suitable for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. Lighting, both internal and external, as well as acoustic levels across the school's buildings are appropriate.
19. There is a clearly labelled supply of drinking water in both the senior and junior school sites. There are numerous drinking water fountains and clearly labelled washbasins which are separate from toilet facilities. There is a suitable flow of water to washing facilities and the temperature of the hot water is regularly monitored.
20. The school has suitable outdoor spaces for pupils' leisure time and to enable them to participate in a range of sporting activities. The current outdoor areas are also appropriate for the planned increase in pupil numbers.
21. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

## **Part 6. Provision of information**

ISSR Paragraph 32(1)(c)

22. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.
23. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR Paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)

24. Leaders have effectively implemented the school's action plan to address the Standards which were not met at the previous inspection. They have liaised effectively with external agencies to put in place a programme of training for leaders and staff to ensure that any allegations against adults are managed effectively and reported promptly. A new set of protocols has been introduced which, in combination with staff training, has led to a greater understanding of when leaders should refer

allegations to external bodies in line with statutory guidance. The new procedures have been effectively implemented.

25. Trustees have actively monitored the school's approach to managing allegations against adults working in the school. As a consequence, trustees have ensured that leaders have the skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively, actively promote the wellbeing of pupils and ensure that the Standards are met.
26. Trustees have also overseen the effective planning carried out by leaders to put in place appropriate measures to accommodate additional pupils. Leaders' planning shows the proposed increase in pupil numbers can be achieved within the current organisation of classes. Leaders have carefully reviewed the school's provision in terms of the proposed increase to meet the needs of all pupils, including the needs of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
27. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

## School details

<b>School</b>	Lewes Old Grammar School
<b>Department for Education number</b>	845/6032
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1163491
<b>Address</b>	Lewes Old Grammar School Tyne House 140 High Street Lewes East Sussex BN7 1XS
<b>Phone number</b>	01273 472634
<b>Email address</b>	office@logs.uk.com
<b>Website</b>	www.logs.uk.com
<b>Proprietor</b>	Lewes Old Grammar School Trust
<b>Chair</b>	Mrs Sue Bonell
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Robert Blewitt
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 19
<b>Number of pupils</b>	695
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	30 April to 2 May 2024

## Information about the school

29. Lewes Old Grammar School is an independent co-educational day school, based on two separate sites in Lewes, East Sussex. The junior school is located approximately half a mile away from the senior school which is located in a number of buildings on Lewes High Street. The school is a charitable trust, overseen by a governing body formed of the trustees.
30. There are nine children in the early years comprising one Nursery and one Reception class.
31. The school has identified 79 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Four pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
32. The school has not identified any pupils for whom English is an additional language.
33. The school states that its aims are to enable pupils to develop respect for others, self-esteem and the ability to think for themselves. It sets out to help pupils grow in self-confidence, leadership and organisational skills, while reaching their individual academic potential.

## Purpose of the progress monitoring and material change inspection

This was a progress monitoring inspection carried out section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards, Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and any other Standards that were unmet at the school's previous inspection. A material change inspection was also carried out at the same time. following an application made by the school to the DfE to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of this is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the independent school Standards if the material change the school has requested is implemented.

## Inspection details

### Inspection dates

28 February 2025

34. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.
35. Inspection activities included:
  - scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
  - tour of the school site to look at the safety of the school premises
  - discussions with the chair of trustees and members of the body of trustees
  - discussions with the head, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
  - discussions with pupils and staff.

### **How are association independent schools in England inspected?**

- The Department for Education is the regulator for independent schools in England.
- ISI is approved by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect independent schools in England, which are members of associations in membership of the Independent Schools Council.
- ISI inspections report to the Department for Education on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards, the EYFS statutory framework requirements, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other relevant Standards are met.
- For more information, please visit **[www.isi.net](http://www.isi.net)**.

#### **Independent Schools Inspectorate**

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