

THE FROEBELIAN SCHOOL

Clarence Road, Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4LB

12 OCTOBER 2017

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

The Froebelian School is an independent day school for boys and girls aged between 3 and 11 years. It was founded in 1913 and in 1973 became a charitable educational trust administered by a board of governors, known as the school council. The school is divided into two sections, the pre-preparatory from Nursery to Year 2 and the junior section from Years 3 to 6. The school has 182 pupils on roll, 93 boys and 89 girls. The pre-preparatory section has 92 children and there are 90 pupils in Years 3 to 6. The school has identified 8 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), for which it provides specialist learning support. No pupil in the school has an education, health and care (EHC) plan or a statement of special educational needs. Six pupils have English as an additional language (EAL); however, none of these require specialist support from the school.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance inspection in May 2017. The focus of the visit was on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, particularly those concerned with: welfare, health and safety, including electrical and fire safety; premises and accommodation, including water supply; and the quality of leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b); EYFS 3.4]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The school meets the regulation and requirements.

The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. 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 and are provided to parents on request.

Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively to ensure the welfare of pupils, including for children in the EYFS. Staff with designated responsibility for safeguarding receive training at the appropriate level, including working with other safeguarding agencies. All staff receive regular training in safeguarding and their responsibility in promoting the welfare of pupils, in line with the requirements of the local safeguarding children board, including training in promoting e-safety and the prevention of extremism. Staff new to the school receive appropriate induction training, including those staff who start work at times other than the start of term. All staff are required to read *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex A*; their understanding of what they have read is checked through scenario discussions and in governor led question and answer sessions.

The school liaises closely with the local safeguarding board and follows the advice they receive. Should concerns or allegations arise, the school knows how to seek advice from the appropriate agencies and, when necessary, make a referral. The school is aware of the need to liaise appropriately with parents about safeguarding concerns that arise to ensure that parental wishes do not override the best interests of the child.

Staff have a clear understanding of the school's code of conduct, including the use of mobile phones, guidance on taking images of children involved in school activities, and their use of social media. Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe on the internet, mainly through the school's e-safety curriculum, supported by the personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) programme.

The school's safeguarding arrangements are overseen effectively by the governors. The designated governor for safeguarding meets regularly with the head and DSL to review arrangements and any child protection concerns. They carry out an annual review of the school's safeguarding policy and practice which, in turn, is reviewed by the full governing body.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety policy and practice and fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 11 and 12]

The school meets the regulations.

Since the previous inspection, the school has put into place a remedial plan to ensure that fire extinguishers are correctly located and have appropriate signage. Logs are kept of all fire drills and an external agency has provided fire-safety training for all staff at the school. Weekly fire alarm tests are conducted and recorded, and all fire extinguishers have now been appropriately wall mounted. Pupils confirmed that regular fire drills take place and that they know the procedure for evacuating the buildings.

All outstanding electrical issues resulting from hard wire testing have been addressed, including remedial work to the emergency lighting systems. External contractors now conduct an annual emergency lighting inspection, and a member of staff conducts monthly lighting tests.

Premises and accommodation – water temperature [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28(d)]

The school meets the regulation.

Since the previous inspection, external contractors have conducted a full survey of the school's water supply and have advised on water maintenance and water temperature regulation procedures. Remedial works conducted by contractors have included the fitting of thermostatic mixing valves where appropriate, and further work was undertaken to ensure that stagnant water cannot gather in the supply piping. A tour of the premises confirmed that the water temperature sampled from taps across the school was appropriate and did not constitute a scalding risk to either staff or pupils. This was also confirmed in discussion with pupils. A member of staff has a specific remit to check the temperature of water from taps throughout the school on a weekly basis.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34 (1) (a) and (b)]

The school meets the regulation.

Since the previous inspection, the school's leadership and management have taken steps to ensure that they have the good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and effectively fulfil their responsibilities.

Staff and governors have sought external professional advice to ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities, including the setting up of an annual health and safety audit with an accompanying checklist. A member of the school council, who has the appropriate skill sets, has been tasked with undertaking the regular monitoring of health and safety across the school. External contractors have been engaged to undertake periodic health and safety reviews, and their contract is in the process of being extended to ensure that on-going advice

continues to be available to the school. The school council's health and safety committee now meets termly and has representatives from both the senior management of the school and the school council. Results of health and safety monitoring are reported at the termly meetings of the full school council, where safeguarding and health and safety are now standing items on the agenda. As a result of this increased effort in monitoring and review and the seeking of external professional advice, the school is now in a stronger position to ensure that the Independent School Standards are consistently met.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.