

ST WINEFRIDE'S SCHOOL

Belmont, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TE

09 FEBRUARY 2018

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

St Winefride's School is a co-educational Roman Catholic day school for pupils aged from three to eleven years. It was founded in 1868 by the Sisters of Mercy, became a charitable trust in 1993 and is governed by a board of six trustees. It is located close to the centre of Shrewsbury and is adjacent to the Sisters of Mercy Convent to which it is closely linked. At the time of the visit there were 151 pupils on roll, 80 girls and 71 boys. Thirty-seven pupils were in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Four pupils require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and one pupil has an educational health and care (EHC) plan. No pupil has English as an additional language. The previous inspections were a compliance inspection in November 2016, followed by an unannounced visit in September 2017.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was the second progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education which focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the EYFS Statutory Requirements (2017), particularly those concerned with welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding, risk assessment, suitability of staff and proprietors, and leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7(a) and (b)] EYFS requirements 3.4 to 3.8]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

The school meets the Regulations.

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.

The school's policy for safeguarding shows regard for the welfare of pupils and the most recent statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 (KCSIE)*. The policy includes details of *Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (July 2015)* and is further supported by suitable policies covering the staff code of conduct, whistleblowing and e-safety. Appropriate procedures are in place to support pupils in need and for listening to pupils. The policy complies with the child protection arrangements for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) including the school's advice on the use of cameras and mobile phones. Senior staff understand the need to report any allegations against staff to the Disqualification and Barring service (DBS) and/or the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL). Safeguarding documents show that the procedures that have been taken regarding pupil concerns are appropriate and are kept secure.

All staff including those who are regular visitors to the school have received training in recent changes to regulatory guidance including on-line safety. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is a member of the senior management and is supported by two deputy designated safeguarding leads (DDSL) These staff have appropriate

levels of training which is in line with local procedures. Designated safeguarding trustees are also available to support the DSL and have had appropriate training. Minutes of trustees' meetings show that there is an agenda item for safeguarding recorded for all meetings and that they review any issues arising. The policy and implementation are reviewed annually by the trustees and they have regular oversight of arrangements including those for staff recruitment through their visits to the school and discussions with the DSL. The DSL is the designated EYFS safeguarding lead and has suitable knowledge about ensuring the welfare and well-being of young children. The DSL provides updates of any changes to safeguarding policy and its implementation and provides staff with regular opportunities to contribute to safeguarding arrangements through termly staff training and through staff meetings. A copy of KCSIE (September 2016) and *Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (July 2015)*, has been provided to each member of staff to read, understand and implement.

Welfare, Health and Safety – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3: paragraph 16(a) and (b)]

The school meets the Regulation.

In response to the action plan, a suitable risk assessment policy has been drawn up and clear guidelines for carrying out risk assessment are in place. The school has a comprehensive risk assessment procedure for all aspects of school life, and any concerns are quickly acted upon with necessary amendments taking place immediately. All staff have undertaken training in risk assessment and the policy has been fully implemented.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 20(6)(b)(i - iii); paragraph 21(6); EYFS 3.9-3.13]

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has an appropriate formal recruitment policy. Since the previous visit, staff files have been updated and all checks required have been undertaken and details added to the single central register. All new appointments have included appropriate checks and these have been correctly recorded on the single central register (SCR) including identity, right to work, overseas and medical checks. The trustees now undertake a regular audit of recruitment arrangements.

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

The school meets the requirements.

The trustees ensure that the leadership and management of the school demonstrates good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and actively promote the well-being of pupils. Their knowledge of the requirements for a suitable safeguarding policy, its implementation and the requirements of safe recruitment are secure and therefore fully promote the well-being of pupils and they fully oversee the implementation of the school's risk assessment policy.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.