

Material change inspection report

6 December 2024

Warwick School

Myton Road

Warwick

Warwickshire

CV34 6PP

Inspection outcome

The school has requested a material change to increase capacity from 1240 to 1300.

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), safeguarding; paragraph 11, health and safety; paragraph 12, fire safety; paragraph 14, supervision of pupils; paragraphs 16(a) and 16(b), risk assessment

1. The role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) are understood by both staff and pupils. The DSL possesses the training and authority to act in the best interests of pupils. All members of the safeguarding team are suitably trained, meet regularly and collaborate effectively in the management of pupil welfare. When concerns arise, the team takes appropriate action and records their decision-making processes. Timely action, including referral to local authorities, is taken where necessary.
2. Leaders ensure that staff are sufficiently trained to identify and address safeguarding concerns. Staff are alert to changes in behaviour, including those related to attendance, that could indicate an issue. They report issues appropriately.
3. Pupils have several ways to voice concerns, including an online reporting system, visiting the wellbeing hub, and through the wellbeing committee.
4. Safeguarding leaders have considered the potential risks of the proposed change to pupil numbers. The capacity of the team is sufficient to manage the welfare of additional pupils.
5. Filtering and monitoring systems effectively reduce the risk of pupils encountering inappropriate online content. Leaders take swift, appropriate action when issues are identified. They stay informed of online trends and adjust assemblies and lessons accordingly to ensure that pupils are taught about online risks and know how to report concerns about bullying or unsuitable content.
6. Leaders ensure that staff understand their roles and responsibilities to promote the health and safety of pupils and staff. Staff are suitably trained and perform their roles effectively. Leaders regularly review the health and safety arrangements to adapt policy and practice to ensure it is consistent with any regulatory changes.
7. Fire risk assessments are regularly conducted, and staff complete the identified remedial actions. Fire evacuation drills take place frequently, including during boarding time. Leaders have risk assessed the impact of additional pupils on fire evacuation procedures to ensure that procedures are sufficient. For example, they have considered the additional number of pupils and possible evacuation routes. Staff and external specialists maintain fire safety equipment.
8. Leaders deploy staff using rotas to ensure effective supervision. Staff receive additional guidance to identify and manage risks in areas, such as corridors and playgrounds. Timetables are in place to prevent overcrowding during high-demand periods, such as sports sessions and in the dining hall. These are likely to remain effective.

9. Risk assessments are carried out effectively by staff with suitable training. For example, they identify risks and plan mitigations in line with the school's published policy. Risk assessments are comprehensive and activity-specific, providing clear risk-reduction strategies. Examples include the use of tools in design technology, the use of junior classrooms, and educational visits.
10. The school 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 – 21

11. Before adults start work at the school, leaders ensure that all required background checks are completed. The results of these checks are accurately recorded in the school's single central record (SCR).
12. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 32 – 30

13. Leaders ensure that the number of toilets available for pupils is suitable. Assessments completed by leaders based on ratios of toilets to pupils suggests these facilities will continue to meet pupils needs. Classrooms are sufficiently large to accommodate additional pupils.
14. Medical spaces meet statutory requirements, offering privacy and care for unwell or injured pupils.
15. Regular maintenance schedules address a wide range of tasks, including upkeep of the condition of buildings, emergency lighting, and plumbing systems. External consultants address specialist needs, such as electrical testing. This means that the school is suitably maintained.
16. Sound insulation between teaching rooms is effective. Lighting across indoor and outdoor spaces is sufficient, with recent upgrades to external lighting reducing risks during evening activities. Drinking water stations are positioned appropriately and hot water systems are regulated to prevent scalding. Physical education (PE) and play areas are spacious, well maintained, and regularly inspected.
17. Boarders are provided with appropriate sleeping and living accommodation. This is suitably sized, and well furnished, lit and heated. Accommodation and room-sharing arrangements are age-appropriate and provide privacy and opportunities for personalisation. Boarding areas are accessible only to boarders and boarding staff. The proposed change does not affect boarding.
18. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

19. Leaders publish and maintain a suitable safeguarding policy on the school website. This policy has due regard for the local context and reflects current statutory guidance.
20. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

ISSR paragraph 33

21. Complaints are handled promptly and effectively by leaders in accordance with the published policy. Parents are encouraged to raise concerns informally at first, with a formal process available if resolution is not achieved. Records of complaints are appropriately maintained, demonstrating thorough investigations and timely outcomes.
22. The school 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), 34(2)

23. Governors provide effective oversight of leaders' actions. They observe activities and tour the site, listen to the views of staff and pupils, and meet regularly to review reports prepared by leaders. As a result, governors ensure leaders and managers have the appropriate skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.
24. Leaders have considered the potential risks associated with the proposed increase in pupil numbers and additional pupils will be accommodated by the school's current provision.
25. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Warwick School
Department for Education number	937/6020
Registered charity number	1088057
Address	Warwick School Myton Road Warwick Warwickshire CV34 6PP
Phone number	01926 776400
Email address	enquiries@warwickschool.org
Website	warwickschool.org
Proprietor	Warwick Independent Schools Foundation
Chair	Mrs Sally Austin
Headteacher	Mr James Barker
Age range	7 to 19
Number of pupils	1254
Number of boarding pupils	57
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2022

Information about the school

27. Warwick School is an independent day and boarding school for male pupils in Warwick, Warwickshire. It is part of the Warwick Independent Schools Foundation. The foundation's directors are also trustees and act as the school's board of governors.
28. Boarders aged 13 to 18 are accommodated in one boarding house on the main site.
29. The school has identified 123 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Six pupils in the school have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
30. English is an additional language for 100 pupils.
31. The school states its aims are to inspire and nurture every pupil to thrive, both now and in the future. It seeks to inspire and nurture its pupils morally, spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially, building on their individual strengths and helping them to grow into well-rounded young men who are confident but not arrogant and able to play a positive role in the world.

Purpose of the material change

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002 following an application made by the school to the DfE to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of the inspection 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 is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

6 December 2024

32. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.
33. 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 view arrangements for the accommodation of additional pupils
 - discussions with the chair of governors and members of the governing body
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils

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- 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.
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Independent Schools Inspectorate

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