

Progress monitoring inspection report

4 February 2025

Appleford School

Elston Lane

Shrewton

Salisbury

Wiltshire

SP3 4HL

Inspection outcome

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

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b); 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c); and 16(a) and 16(b)

1. Leaders ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to safeguard pupils and promote their welfare. Since the last inspection, leaders have strengthened the organisation of the designated safeguarding team and how they coordinate their work. Members of the team now have clearly defined roles and responsibilities and have completed further training. They have the knowledge, skills and experience to fulfil their roles successfully.
2. Leaders ensure that the designated safeguarding team have regard to statutory guidance. They have followed the advice of the local safeguarding partnership to review their safeguarding arrangements. This has helped leaders ensure that procedures are robust and well understood by staff. The designated safeguarding leader and their deputies ensure that any safeguarding concerns they receive, including disclosures from pupils, are referred to the appropriate agency without delay.
3. Leaders promote a culture of safeguarding throughout the school. The designated safeguarding leader has delivered training to staff within the school and provides regular updates to refresh staff's knowledge of safeguarding and their understanding of the school's procedures. Staff understand how to raise low level concerns, and these are now managed in line with statutory guidance.
4. The proprietor and advisory board maintain regular oversight of safeguarding. For example, they monitor action taken by leaders in relation to safeguarding at regular senior management team meetings. The school makes sure that details relating to online searches undertaken during pre-employment checks are recorded and stored in staff files.
5. The school implements an effective behaviour policy, which sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils' misbehaviour. Detailed records are kept of any incidents and the monitoring and support that is provided. Leaders engage effectively with parents and pupils to promote positive behaviour.
6. Leaders ensure that risks are reviewed where there are concerns about pupils' behaviour and welfare. The designated safeguarding lead completes individual risk assessments for where pupils may need additional support. Information is shared appropriately with staff so that staff consistently apply relevant strategies to support pupils' needs and minimise risk to their welfare.
7. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR Paragraphs 18(2)(b), 21(3)(a)(iii) and 21(3)(b)

8. The school's procedures for checking staff suitability are robust. Dates that checks are completed are recorded accurately on the single central record. Prohibition from teaching checks are completed for all staff employed in roles with teaching responsibility. Prohibition from management checks are similarly completed in line with statutory guidance.

9. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

10. The school ensures that the school safeguarding policy is published and available to parents on the school website. The policy reflects current statutory guidance.

11. The school meets the Standards.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

ISSR paragraphs 33(a), 33(b), 33(c), 33(d), 33(e), 33(f), 33(g), 33(h), 33(h)(i), 33(h)(i)(ii), 33(j), 33(j)(i), 33(j), 33(j)(i), 33(j)(ii) and 33(k)

12. The school has an appropriate complaints policy, which is available to parents on the school website. This sets out informal and formal procedures for responding to complaints. The policy includes suitable detail about what will happen if parents are not satisfied with a complaint response.

13. Leaders handle complaints appropriately and in line with the published policy. They maintain appropriate records of complaints, which demonstrate that complaints are investigated and responded to thoroughly and in a timely manner.

14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)

15. The proprietor and advisory board provide effective support and challenge to school leaders. They complete regular monitoring to assure themselves that leaders bring about the necessary improvements and that procedures are consistently followed.

16. Leader's decision making has been effective in helping the school to meet the Standards. Leaders have made the necessary improvements. Leaders demonstrate the appropriate skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. They actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.

17. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Appleford School
Department for Education number	865/6008
Address	Elston Lane Shrewton Salisbury Wiltshire SP3 4HL
Phone number	01980621020
Email address	headspa@appleford.wilts.sch.uk
Website	www.applefordschool.org
Proprietor	Appleford School
Chair	Dr Peter Gardner
Headteacher	Mr David King
Age range	7 to 18
Number of pupils	135
Number of boarding pupils	54
Date of previous inspection	8 July 2024

Information about the school

19. Appleford school is an independent co-educational day and boarding school catering for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), in particular, dyslexia and associated learning needs. Founded in 1988, the school has a Christian ethos and is located on an eight-acre rural site. The school is divided into two sections: the prep school for pupils aged seven to 13; and the senior school for those aged 13 to 18. The school is proprietorial, with limited company status, and has an advisory board.
20. The school has four boarding houses. Three are located on the school site and one is in the village of Shrewton. Boarding is provided for pupils from Year 5 to Year 11.
21. All pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities. 127 pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
22. The school has identified that there are no pupils for whom English is an additional language.
23. The school states that its aims are to provide a high-quality education for children in Year three to Year 11 with dyslexia and associated learning difficulties to include dyscalculia, dyspraxia, ASD and ADHD.

Purpose of the progress monitoring inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. This inspection was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection which was carried out at the request of the DfE. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

3 February 2025

24. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.

25. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- discussion with the proprietor
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils
- discussions with the designated safeguarding leaders and scrutiny of safeguarding records

- scrutiny of information published on the school's website.

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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.
- 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.
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Independent Schools Inspectorate

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