

## **DOLPHIN SCHOOL (INCORPORATING NOAH'S ARK NURSERY SCHOOLS)**

106 Northcote Rd, London, SW11 6QW

**5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL**

Dolphin School is a co-educational day school for pupils between the ages of four and a half and eleven years. It was founded in 1986 as a charitable trust based upon Christian principles. The main school is based in church premises in Battersea and educates pupils from Reception onwards. The trust has also expanded to include three additional nurseries for pupils between the ages of two and a half and three located nearby, known as Noah's Ark Nurseries. The school is overseen by a board of governors.

At the time of the visit, there were 207 pupils on roll (114 boys and 93 girls) at Dolphin School and 100 pupils on roll (52 boys and 48 girls) at Noah's Ark Nurseries. One hundred and thirty pupils across the settings are in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Twenty-five pupils require and receive support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom one has a statement of special educational needs. There are 13 pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL), of whom six require and receive support.

The previous ISI integrated inspection was in May 2015.

### **PURPOSE OF THE VISIT**

This was an unannounced emergency visit at the request of the Department for Education which was focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), particularly those concerned with: teaching (progress and assessment); safeguarding; health and safety; first aid (recording of injuries); risk assessment; recruitment checks; the provision of information; and leadership and management.

### **INSPECTION FINDINGS**

#### **Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3(a) and (g)]**

The school meets the Regulation.

Teachers are provided with clear guidance on how to meet the needs of all pupils. There is a standard form of curricular planning, which identifies pupils with SEND, EAL and the more able and how their learning is to be supported. Teachers show a strong understanding of their pupils, and their planning is adjusted in the light of on-going assessments, thus ensuring pupils make good progress. Senior staff regularly monitor lessons in order to support teaching staff, and to check their planning and assessments.

The school has a successful record of gaining 11+ places to competitive senior schools in the London area and results in national tests in Year 6 have been well above the national average for maintained schools.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7(a) and (b)]**

The school meets the Regulation.

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

There are two designated senior leads (DSL) for safeguarding, both of whom are on the senior leadership team and have undergone recent inter-agency training for their role. In addition, each nursery has its own trained DSL. Safeguarding has a high priority within the school and is a fixed agenda item at all staff and full governors' meetings. The designated safeguarding governor visits regularly to monitor arrangements, and reports back in detail to the full board. This oversight is thorough and well-informed.

All staff have received recent training, including on the recent update to *Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016)*, online safety and the prevention of radicalisation. Their understanding was evaluated through small-group activities. Pupils have opportunities to raise any concerns in daily form periods, and feel safe to approach any members of staff. Staff are familiar with types of abuse, understand the school's code of conduct with pupils and know how to respond to a possible disclosure. There are strict protocols concerning online communication between staff and pupils, pupils are taught to stay safe on-line, and there are suitable filtering systems in place to control internet use.

The school has liaised closely with local safeguarding agencies, ensuring that pupils in need or at risk receive timely help, and interventions can begin at an early stage. Safeguarding records are carefully maintained and stored securely and shared with local agencies where required.

**Welfare, Health & Safety – Health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]**

The school meets the Regulation.

The governors give their responsibility for the health and safety of pupils, adults and visitors a high priority, and have a strong oversight through the health and safety committee which monitors the arrangements, and provides a detailed report to the main board each term, prioritising any required actions appropriately. Staff report that the school responds promptly to any identified issues, and particular care is taken with off-site trips and activities to ensure they are carried out in a safe fashion. Records are carefully maintained.

**Welfare, Health & Safety – First aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13]**

The school meets the Regulation.

The school has a suitable policy in place, and this is implemented with care to ensure it meets the medical needs of pupils and staff. The arrangements for the administering and recording of any first aid required by pupils have recently been reviewed. Records show that any accidents are conscientiously recorded, and parents informed as appropriate. These records are scrutinised by the health and safety committee to ascertain any patterns.

**Welfare, Health & Safety – Risk assessments [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]**

The school meets the Regulation.

The school has an adequate policy in place, and the arrangements to assess and control risks, both on site and for activities off site and on school trips, are thorough. Examples of risk assessments show that staff complete these conscientiously and realistically, and they are regularly checked by senior staff. Particular care is taken to ensure that school visits and the movement of pupils to and from break and games are carried out safely.

**The suitability of staff [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18, 21]**

The school meets the Regulations.

The school has a suitable recruitment policy to ensure the suitability of staff, which is almost always followed in practice. In a very small number of cases, the required checks, including a check for prohibition from the management of schools for the relevant staff, were not carried out in a timely manner, but the school's own monitoring by governors had already identified this and swift action was taken to ensure that these were carried out. As a result, pupils were not placed at risk and robust on-going monitoring arrangements are in now in place.

**Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(b), (c) and f)]**

The school meets the Regulation.

The safeguarding policy is available on the school's website. In addition, the school's aims and ethos; admissions policy; curriculum policy; behaviour policy; anti-bullying policy; provision for pupils with EAL/EHC plans; complaints policy and the number of complaints in the previous academic year; previous inspection report and details of the school's academic performance are made available.

Parents are provided with reports on their children's progress each term. These give a realistic picture of each child's achievement, comparing this to the age-related expectations. Parents of pupils with SEND are offered additional termly review meetings to discuss provision and progress for their children.

**Leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]**

The school meets the Regulation.

The school's new leadership team shows a secure understanding of the regulatory requirements, and is committed to ensuring high standards of teaching in a safe environment. This can be seen in the recent appraisal process for all teaching staff, and the careful monitoring of the academic progress of all pupils. Governors know the school well and are diligent in ensuring the staff follow the school's procedures for safeguarding, recruitment and welfare, and the health and safety of staff and pupils. As a result, they identified and addressed the few remaining issues with the appointment procedures for new staff.

**REGULATORY ACTION POINTS**

The school meets all the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and no further action is required.