



Material Change Inspection Report

Exeter Pre-Prep School

November 2023

School's details

School	Exeter Pre-Prep School		
DfE number	878/6046		
Address	Exeter Pre-Prep School The Avenue Exminster Exeter Devon EX6 8AT		
Telephone number	01392 496122		
Email address	preprep@exeterschool.org.uk		
Head	Mr Daniel Ayling		
Chair of governors	Mrs Helen Clark		
Proprietor	Exeter School		
Age range	3 to 7		
Number of pupils on roll	60		
	EYFS	28	Juniors 32
Date of inspection	14 November 2023		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Exeter Pre-Prep School is an independent co-educational day school. Known as ‘The New School’ until August 2023, the school was originally founded in 1992 and transferred to the ownership of Exeter School in March 2021. The school is a wholly owned subsidiary of Exeter School and has its own governors who are also members of Exeter School’s governing board. It includes an early years setting. The current head took up his position in September 2021. Three pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), none of whom has an education, health and care plan. Five pupils speak English as an additional language. The previous inspection of the school, under its previous name, was a regulatory compliance inspection, which took place in January 2020.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school’s proposal to increase the maximum number of pupils from 72 to 100. The inspection focused on the school’s compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs), and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 – 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 – 29 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

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

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school implements its safeguarding policy and procedures effectively. It acts in the best interests of the child, including by providing them with a range of age-appropriate ways to share any worries that they might have. Pupils who spoke to the inspector said that staff listen to them and respond to any concerns that they might express. Safeguarding records demonstrate that the school responds to safeguarding concerns appropriately and acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. Governors and staff, including the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputy DSLs, are suitably trained. Staff understand the different forms that abuse can take and the procedures to follow should a safeguarding concern arise. They also understand and implement their responsibilities under the safeguarding policy and the staff code of conduct, including those relating to low level concerns. The school has appropriate procedures for dealing with any concerns about child-on-child abuse or allegations against staff. Staff who spoke to the inspector conveyed their willingness to use the school's whistleblowing procedures should it be appropriate to do so. The school teaches children and pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Governors maintain an effective oversight of the safeguarding policy and procedures, including through a detailed annual audit. They check that leaders ensure that suitable filtering and monitoring of internet usage is in place. The safeguarding team provides sufficient cover for the pupils, including children in the early years. It has the capacity to continue to do so should the increase in pupil numbers be approved.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 Leaders ensure that the school carries out all required health and safety checks and maintenance systematically. Governors check that the school's health and safety procedures are effective. The school's health and safety procedures are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school implements a suitable fire safety policy effectively. Leaders ensure that a fire risk assessment is carried out by external specialists frequently and that any actions required are carried out. Staff receive appropriate fire safety training. The school maintains its fire safety equipment effectively and carries out fire evacuation drills at least termly. Pupils who spoke to the inspector knew what they needed to do should the fire alarm sound. The school's fire safety procedures are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Leaders ensure that pupils are appropriately supervised by staff, including before and after the school day and during lessons, breaks and lunchtime. The required staff to child ratios are adhered to in the early years setting. The school employs sufficient staff to be able to supervise up to 100 pupils.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The school implements a suitable written risk assessment policy. Risk assessments, including those for the early years setting and for trips, are thorough and detailed. They take into account particular children's and pupils' individual needs effectively. The school's risk assessment procedures are likely to remain suitable once the proposed increase in pupil numbers takes place.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school carries out all required checks on staff and governors before appointment. (The school does not use supply staff.) Leaders ensure that these checks are recorded as required in a single central register of appointments.

Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23–29]

- 2.15 The school meets the standards.
- 2.16 Leaders and governors ensure that the premises and accommodation are suitably maintained and secure. The premises have suitable acoustics and internal and external lighting. Water provision meets the requirements. The toilet, washing and medical facilities are suitable. The premises and accommodation, including the teaching, dining and toilet facilities, have sufficient capacity to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

- 2.17 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.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

- 2.18 The school meets the standard.
- 2.19 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. Leaders and governors have planned and prepared effectively for the proposed material change.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal, to increase the maximum number of pupils from 72 to 100, be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.