

Progress monitoring inspection report

15 June 2026

Highfield and Brookham School

Highfield Lane

Liphook

GU30 7LQ

The Independent Schools Inspectorate is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect association independent schools in England. Our inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met, collectively referred to in this report as 'the Standards'.

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), 8(a) and 8(b), 12, 16(a) and 16(b); NMS 9.3, 10.2; EYFS 3.79, 3.80, 3.91

1. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibilities, including those in boarding and those working with the youngest children in Nursery and Reception, are appropriately trained and experienced in their roles. The designated safeguarding leaders undertake suitable training, including 'Prevent' duty training. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy, which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and reflects statutory guidance.
2. Leaders ensure that all staff receive a comprehensive programme of safeguarding training, supported by induction for new staff, regular updates, newsletters and opportunities for staff to identify areas where further training would be beneficial. Staff are knowledgeable and vigilant to safeguarding matters, including online safety, self-harm, emerging risks and low-level concerns about adults working with pupils.
3. Safeguarding leaders maintain effective oversight of safeguarding arrangements through weekly meetings involving the safeguarding team, boarding leaders and the school nurses. This work is complemented by regular meetings with senior leaders and regular reporting to the designated safeguarding director. Leaders monitor concerns and take timely action. They work closely with local authority services and other agencies, seek advice appropriately and maintain clear records of decisions, actions taken and their rationale. They provide thorough oversight, persistent advocacy for pupils where external support is required, and effective monitoring of vulnerable pupils.
4. Leaders discharge their safeguarding responsibilities thoroughly by maintaining effective oversight of the wider range of systems that contribute to pupils' welfare and safety. For example, they monitor attendance carefully, reviewing attendance information regularly and providing appropriate support to pupils and families where concerns arise. Effective filtering and monitoring arrangements are in place to identify and respond promptly to online risks. Leaders ensure that appropriate pre-employment checks are completed before adults begin working with pupils.
5. Pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to raise concerns, including through trusted relationships with staff, electronic reporting systems, pupil listeners, the school council and pastoral support groups. Leaders respond appropriately to concerns about child-on-child behaviour and maintain detailed records of incidents and follow-up actions.
6. Leaders have improved their oversight and arrangements related to fire safety. Leaders ensure measures are in place to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Fire risk assessment documentation, evacuation procedures, signage and associated records have been reviewed and updated to ensure that they accurately reflect practice across the school. External fire safety advice has also been sought to review signage, evacuation arrangements and related procedures. Staff and pupils, including boarders, have a secure understanding of fire procedures as a result of regular drills, including in boarding time, and guidance from leaders.
7. Leaders ensure that clear processes are in place to assess and manage risks effectively. Risks related to fire safety, as well as a range of health and safety matters, are suitably identified and mitigated.

Advice from external specialists is regularly sought and implemented through a systematic approach to address any issues identified.

8. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

9. Leaders ensure that the safeguarding policy is published on the school's website and is available to parents.
10. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c); NMS 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8.

11. Leaders and the proprietor body have taken appropriate action to address the unmet Standards identified at the previous inspection. Following the previous inspection, the proprietor body created an action plan that outlined how leaders were going to address the previously unmet Standards and requirements. Leaders have implemented this plan appropriately and effectively.
12. Leaders and the proprietor body have undertaken a comprehensive review of fire safety arrangements. Additional oversight has been provided through regular monitoring by the proprietor body, increased scrutiny by leaders and the involvement of a director with responsibility for health and safety.
13. Leaders and the proprietor now have sufficient knowledge and skills appropriate to their roles. They provide effective oversight of health and safety and ensure that the relevant Standards and requirements are met consistently.
14. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Highfield and Brookham School
Department for Education number	938/6252
Address	Highfield and Brookham School Highfield Lane Liphook Hampshire GU30 7LQ
Phone number	01428 728000
Email address	office@highfieldandbrookham.co.uk
Website	www.highfieldandbrookham.co.uk
Proprietor	Mr William Mills
Chair	Mr William Mills
Headteacher	Mrs Suzannah Cryer
Age range	2 to 13
Number of pupils	436
Number of boarding pupils	120
Date of previous inspection	9 to 11 September 2025

Information about the school

15. Highfield and Brookham School is a co-educational independent day and boarding school. The school is owned by a company whose chairman is the owner and proprietor. The company's directors take on roles on the school's governing body. The school consists of a Nursery, for children aged two to three years old; a pre-prep, for Reception-aged children and pupils in Years 1 and 2; and a prep, for pupils in Years 3 to 9.
16. Boarders usually board from Year 4. However, arrangements can be made for pupils to board from Year 3. Boarders are accommodated in two boarding houses located within the main school building and a junior boarding house adjacent to the main building.
17. There are 85 children in the early years, comprising three Nursery and two Reception classes.
18. The school has identified 78 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Fourteen pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
19. The school has identified English as an additional language for 39 pupils.
20. The school aims to provide high-quality day and boarding education, supported by an inclusive ethos, in a community where every child is treated equally and respected, so that they are happy, fulfilled and secure. It seeks to inspire children through a creative curriculum that nurtures curiosity, independence and a love of learning. The school intends to foster strong values, resilience and adaptability, to prepare pupils to thrive in school and beyond.

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 Department for Education. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards, National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

15 June 2026

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

22. Inspection activities included

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a tour of the school site to assess progress since the previous inspection
- discussions with the proprietor
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils
- visit to a boarding house accompanied by staff.

How are association independent schools in England inspected?

- 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.
- For more information, please visit **www.isi.net**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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