



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Stanborough Secondary School

November 2020



School's details

School name	Stanborough Secondary School
DfE number	919/6154
Registered charity number	1044071
Address	Stanborough Secondary School Stanborough Park Cedarwood Drive Watford Hertfordshire WD25 9JT
Telephone	01923673268
Email address	info@spsch.org
Interim Headteacher	Mr Kaz James
Proprietor	The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists
Age Range	11 to 16
Number of pupils on roll	58
Date of visit	3 November 2020

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Stanborough Secondary School is a co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 11 to 16 years, owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Governance is through a board of governors, some of whom are members of the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists. The school was founded in 1919 and the current complex, including boarding accommodation, was completed in 1991 but the school has now ceased to offer boarding. It occupies a 40-acre site in Garston, just outside of Watford. The International Stanborough School, which provided boarding accommodation, is now closed. The school has three pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, none of whom has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for one pupil. The school's previous inspection was a progress monitoring visit in September 2019.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the previous monitoring visit in September 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (assessment)	Met
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); NMS 6	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18 and 19 (safer recruitment of staff, supply staff))	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management).	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 Teaching now involves well-planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time; it shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons. As a consequence of the previous inspection the school has invested resources and time into improving the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The governors have appointed and worked closely with senior leaders with experience in the area. Inspection evidence confirms the benefits to pupils' progress of the support and advice given to teaching staff through a comprehensive programme of lesson observation. Pupils stated that the school's new marking strategies are supporting them to make progress. During the period when attendance at school was prevented by COVID-19, online teaching enabled pupils to continue to make good progress.
- 2.3 A framework is now in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly. The use of data supports teaching in planning appropriate activities in lessons. Teaching shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, including those with SEND. The planning of lessons responds effectively to the gaps in pupils' understanding highlighted by the framework.

Quality of education provided – (framework for pupil performance) [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.4 The school meets the standard.
- 2.5 A framework is now in place for pupils' performance to be evaluated by reference to other pupils nationally using the same tests. The school's leadership and teaching effectively uses the framework to analyse the progress of individual pupils and specific groups.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.6 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.7 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school, who are now solely day pupils.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 Records show that the school acts in the best interests of the child, including the provision for listening to children, responding to their concerns and taking appropriate action. This includes providing for early help, including during the period when attendance at school was prevented by COVID-19. Further support was given to pupils who were at risk from extended periods away from school. The school implements effectively its procedures for dealing with and referring concerns about children in need and/or at risk, and acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures. The safeguarding policy includes, and staff understand, up-to-date definitions of abuse, recognising the particular vulnerabilities of those with SEND, including to peer-on-peer abuse. Staff have a clear understanding of the school's code of conduct and have the confidence to use the whistleblowing procedures. There are clear arrangements for handling allegations of abuse against members of staff, volunteers and the head, including reporting to relevant regulatory bodies if circumstances require it.

- 2.10 Safeguarding is effectively managed. Training for the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), deputies (DDSLs) and staff is up to date and follows local requirements. The board receive reports on safeguarding at each meeting and reviews the school's child protection policies and procedures annually. Pupils are taught how to keep safe on-line.
- 2.11 The school's recruitment policy follows statutory guidance and is now effectively implemented to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Checks against those barred from working with children or where relevant those prohibited from teaching or the management of schools are completed on staff and governors before they commence work or take up their positions. The school secures at least two satisfactory references and carries out a check of employment history on all staff before appointment.
- 2.12 The school's recruitment policy follows statutory guidance and is now effectively implemented to ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Checks against those barred from working with children or where relevant those prohibited from teaching or the management of schools are completed on staff and governors before they commence work or take up their positions. The school secures at least two satisfactory references and carries out a check of employment history on all staff before appointment.

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

- 2.13 The school meets the standard.
- 2.14 The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified. Risk is assessed and recorded for all teaching areas and school activities and reviewed termly or in the light of any incident. Assessment of physical risk from buildings and fire are undertaken weekly and meticulously recorded. Measures to limit the risk from COVID-19 are comprehensive.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 19]

- 2.15 The school meets the standards
- 2.16 All the required checks on staff, supply staff and proprietors are carried out and completed before staff take up their posts. All staff appointed to work in the school since the previous inspection, including supply staff, have been checked appropriately.

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.

The school's leadership demonstrates good skills and knowledge appropriate to its role and fulfil its responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. It actively promotes the well-being of pupils and has sustained that active promotion during the current pandemic. Following the previous inspection, the leadership provided increased resources to develop teaching skills. The governors ensure that this and all other areas of school life are monitored so that the independent school standards continue to be met.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this visit, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and talked with the chair of governors and director of education. They visited different areas of the school, observed lessons and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.