



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Maranatha Christian School

September 2019



School's details

School	Maranatha Christian School		
DfE number	866/6001		
Registered charity number	1092273		
Address	Maranatha Christian School Queenlaines Farm Sevenhampton Highworth Swindon Wiltshire SN6 7SQ		
Telephone number	01793 762075		
Email address	reception@maranathaschool.org		
Headteacher	Mr Grant Kauffman		
Chair of governors	Mr Tim Abbott		
Age range	3 to 18		
Number of pupils on roll	58		
	EYFS	9	Infants 12
	Juniors	15	Secondary 22
Date of visit	27 September 2019		

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Maranatha Christian School is a co-educational independent day school for pupils between the ages of three and eighteen. It was opened in 1991 and is located in buildings on the site of a working farm in Sevenhampton, near Swindon. The school is a registered charity and is owned by the New Maranatha Christian School Trust whose trustees form its governing body. The current headteacher took up his post in January 2018. Pupils of similar ages are taught together in small classes using a mix of distance-learning materials and class teaching. The school has identified one pupil as having special educational needs and/or disabilities but no pupil has an education, health and care plan. No pupils have English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in May 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 regulatory compliance inspection in May 2019

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (publication of safeguarding policy)	Met
Part 8, paragraphs 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 requirement.
- 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 implementation of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for the needs of pupils of all ages. Procedures to safeguard any child who might be at risk are coherent, and there is clear evidence of early intervention for pupils potentially in need. Staff show effective understanding of their training, including in those areas which are the focus of most recent changes in safeguarding guidance. Staff show appropriate awareness of the staff code of conduct, in particular the use of mobile telephones and cameras. They are aware of safeguarding procedures, of whom to go to if they have a concern or receive a disclosure and also that they can make a referral to children's services if necessary. The training for the DSL is appropriate. All teaching and non-teaching staff and volunteers complete annual training and, in addition, there is evidence of regular updates. Induction procedures are thorough and follow statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse. It provides appropriate guidance regarding possible abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil, including linking such abuse to bullying. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) has an effective understanding of the local guidance and the role of local safeguarding partners. Records confirm that pupils receive suitable help to prevent issues escalating to the safeguarding thresholds. No referrals have been made since the previous inspection. Effective communication is maintained with parents unless inappropriate, and staff are clear that they cannot promise confidentiality if a parent makes a disclosure which requires action to be taken by the DSL or external agencies. Pupils of all ages show good understanding of what they have been taught in relation to the use of the internet.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy gives contact details for required local partners. Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures. Staff reported that the visibility of the trustees ensures that there are no barriers to communication. The school understands its role in reporting any person whose services are no longer used where referral criteria are met to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or the Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA). Alternative persons of appropriate status trained to the level of the DSL are provided in the absence of the DSL or in the case of allegations against the head. Since the previous inspection, no referrals have been made.
- 2.7 There is regular contact between the DSL and designated safeguarding governor, and a formal annual review at the start of the school year. Suitable recruitment procedures for staff and volunteers are detailed in both the safeguarding policy and a separate recruitment policy and are rigorously followed. Since the previous inspection, the school has followed statutory advice and all checks of staff and proprietors have been undertaken before appointment.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18(3)]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, proprietors, and contractors. The school does not employ supply staff. Since the previous inspection, all checks, including the receipt of at least two references, have been completed before staff begin work. Suitable checks are undertaken on those who have lived or worked overseas. All required checks are recorded accurately in the single central register of appointments (SCR).

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

- 2.10 The school meets the requirement 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]

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 Those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the well-being of pupils is actively promoted. Appropriate procedures are implemented which allow trustees to effectively monitor compliance with regulations and statutory guidance in the areas of safeguarding and safer recruitment.

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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders, other members of staff and a trustee. He talked with groups of pupils, and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.