

11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Ofsted Section 109 One Day Inspection to Review Part 1, Part 3, and Part 8 of the  
Independent School Standards: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

**Overview**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February our school was visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) to conduct a one day inspection on the following Independent School Standards:

Part 1: The Quality of Education

Part 3: Welfare, Health, and Safety of Pupils

Part 8: Quality of Leadership in and Management of Schools

As a state independent school, we are subject to inspections from Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills). Ofsted inspect us as a non-association independent school, and we are subject to Section 108 and 109 criteria which includes meeting eight independent school standards. For context, state maintained schools and academies are subject to Section 5 inspections which do not cover the independent school standards. You can read more about the eight standards here [The Independent School Standards - Guidance for independent schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) and the Section 108 and 109 standards here [Handbook for additional inspections of independent schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

This was a one day inspection, had it been a full inspection HMI would have been on the site for three days, issued letters to parents to advise that a full inspection was underway, and they would have inspected all eight independent school standards alongside the other five sections as set out in the Section 108 and 109 criteria.

Between full inspections it is normal practice for Ofsted to commission checks that independent school standards are being upheld. This involves the regulator directing inspectors into school to look at sections of the eight standards. In the maintained sector Ofsted use Section 8 monitoring visits to carry out similar visits following lines of enquiry.

**Main Report Findings**

Part 1: Quality of Education Provided

Inspectors deemed that this standard is met.

As you will read from the report HMI reported on our **"broad and balanced curriculum"** which is based on the national curriculum. We were pleased that inspectors recognised that we tailor the curriculum to meet our cohort's needs and have a thorough process for information gathering before student's start with us; HMI reported **"Leaders gather detailed information about pupils before they start at the school"**. Inspectors also acknowledged that students are afforded access to a number of accredited qualifications and that staff plan and prepare lessons to enable students

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to make progress from EHCPs and starting points (***“Leaders track pupil’s progress against their EHCP outcomes carefully”***).

We were particularly pleased that Inspectors recognised our pathway to adulthood and preparation for life outside of Potterspurvy Lodge by stating ***“The curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils are supported for their next steps and develop the skills”***.

### Part 3: Welfare, Health, and Safety of Pupils

Inspectors deemed that this standard is met.

Inspectors recognised the importance that the staff body place on providing students with a safe environment by reported that ***“Pupils feel safe in school”***. It was highly pleasing that HMI recognised the strong relationships between staff and students by commenting ***“Staff know pupils well”*** and ***“Relationships between pupils and staff are positive. “Staff support pupils to manage their own behaviour”***. Inspectors also commented on interventions by stating ***“When concerns arise, pupils are monitored closely and provided with appropriate and effective support”*** and ***“Staff consider pupil’s views and use these to agree future work”***.

Our safeguarding strategy was also secure with inspectors declaring that ***“The school’s safeguarding policy is comprehensive”*** and ***“Staff take all potential safeguarding concerns seriously. They involve external agencies when necessary”***. HMI confirmed that leaders know what to do in the event of concerns being raised about staff conduct and ***“they recognise the need to take all allegations seriously”***.

In terms of managing and reporting behaviour HMI reported that ***“Records of pupil’s behaviour are detailed”*** and ***“Staff use appropriate strategies to de-escalate potential behavioural difficulties”***. ***“Incidents of bullying are rare”*** highlighted the detailed work that pastoral staff undertake to ensure that when such concerns arise between students, swift action is undertaken. HMI praised our ***“detailed”*** personalised support plans and risk assessments to ensure that ***“pupils are supported well and kept safe”***.

### Part 4: Quality of Leadership in and Management of Schools

Inspectors deemed that this standard is met.

HMI acknowledged that our staff body place children at the core of all we do be stating ***“Staff have pupil’s interests at heart. They actively promote pupil’s wellbeing”***. The work of leaders in terms of school improvement was also highlighted; ***“They (leaders) evaluate the quality of their work and act quickly to bring about improvements when weaknesses are identified”***. Quality assurances to monitor the school’s work were also reflected in the report ***“There are robust systems in place to monitor the quality of the school’s work”*** and ***“Those responsible for governance provide effective challenge and support. They hold leaders to account.”*** Leaders responsible for the operational and strategic day to day running of the school were deemed to be ***“knowledgeable and reflective”***.

The Inspection was carried out as an emergency inspection due to a concern that was raised to the Inspectorate regarding Parts 1, 3, and 8 of the Independent School Standards. Both HMI Inspectors were satisfied that all three standards were upheld and that secure practice was viewed across the day. The school has a robust complaints policy and, as HMI commented in the report, “**staff take all potential safeguarding concerns seriously**” and (leaders) “**act quickly to bring about improvements when weaknesses are identified**”. HMI were appeased that concerns were acted upon in a timely manner.

We are therefore reassured by the visit, as it highlights that the system for raising concerns and quality assuring processes has been validated. The process also gives reassurance that the school is continuing to meet its regulatory requirements, and has provided leaders with a quality assurance process in continued school improvement.

If you have any further questions as a Parent/Carer about anything in this report please get in touch via [jenny.nimmo@cambianguroup.com](mailto:jenny.nimmo@cambianguroup.com) and I will set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time with you to discuss further.

The report will be published on our website and the Ofsted portal.

Yours sincerely



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