

MOIRA HOUSE GIRLS' SCHOOL

Upper Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7TE

29 JUNE 2017

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Moira House Girls' School is an independent girls' day and boarding school for pupils aged 0 to 18, with a co-educational Nursery, located on a single site in Eastbourne in East Sussex. The school is structured as: Nursery, Pre-Prep, Lower Prep, Upper Prep, Seniors and Sixth Form. The school is owned by the governing body known as the School Council. The members of the School Council have a variety of experience and expertise, and are almost all either former pupils or parents of current pupils of the school. There are 334 pupils on roll, of whom 241 are day pupils and 93 are boarders. The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 16. One pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan and 63 pupils have English as an additional language (EAL) of whom 43 receive additional support for their English. The previous inspection was in March 2017.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

This was an unannounced visit at the request of the Department for Education to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance inspection in March 2017. The focus of the visit was on pupils' welfare, health and safety, particularly safeguarding; the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors; the provision of information; and the quality of leadership and management.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b), 8 (a) and (b); NMS 11; EYFS requirements 3.4 to 3.8]; Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]

The school meets the regulations.

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

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance. The implementation of the safeguarding policy ensures appropriate support for pupils and recognises the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), boarders and the particular vulnerability of pupils with SEND and EAL. The school listens to pupils, and referral to external support agencies is undertaken, where appropriate. Prompt action is taken, as required, if concerns are expressed about a pupil.

Safeguarding is correctly managed and procedures are regularly reviewed. Suitable arrangements are in place to deal with allegations against members of staff. All staff, including those with designated responsibility for safeguarding, have appropriate levels of training, receive regular update training and have a clear understanding

of safeguarding and their responsibilities. Records of such training are carefully maintained. Staff have read and understood the latest version of Part 1 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (September 2016) and those involved in working with children have read Annex A of the same document. Suitable arrangements are in place for the induction of new staff, which includes training in safeguarding. The nominated governor monitors and supports those with designated roles for safeguarding in the school. The governing body maintains careful oversight of safeguarding and ensures regular and rigorous review of policies and procedures, including procedures for safer recruitment.

The suitability of staff [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18 (2)(c)(i)(ii) and (iv), (e), 21 (3) (a) (viii), NMS 14.1, and EYFS requirements 3.9 to 3.13]

The school meets the regulations.

Recruitment checks, including checks against the lists of those barred from working with children, those prohibited from teaching and those prohibited from management, are completed before staff commence employment at the school. Where an individual is allowed to start work in regulated activity before a DBS certificate has been seen, the school ensures that appropriate supervision is arranged and all other checks, including a separate barred list check, have been completed. A register is kept appropriately. The required recruitment checks on staff are correctly recorded before each person starts working at the school. Appropriate checks take place on boarding staff and on those individuals who are resident on the school premises but are not members of staff.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(1)(a) (b) and (c) and NMS 13.1, 13.3, 13.4 and 13.5]

The school meets the regulation.

The school's leaders and governors demonstrate good skills and knowledge so that relevant regulations are consistently met. The action points from the previous inspection have been appropriately addressed. Governors have suitable arrangements in place to support new members of the management team. Careful monitoring arrangements ensure that those with leadership and management responsibilities in the school fulfil their responsibilities effectively and that they actively promote the well-being of pupils.

REGULATORY ACTION POINTS

The school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.