

Report for a Progress Monitoring Visit

Merchant Taylors' Boys' School, Crosby

September 2019



School's details

School	Merchant Taylors' Boys' School, Crosby			
DfE number	343/6129			
Registered charity number	526681			
Address	186 Liverpool Road Crosby Liverpool L23 0QP			
Telephone number	0151 928 3308			
Email address	infomtbs@merchanttaylors.com			
Headmaster	Mr David Wickes			
Chair of governors	Mrs Beverley Bell			
Age range	7 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	699			
	Juniors	156	Seniors	403
	Sixth Form	140		
Date of visit	16 September 2019			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Merchant Taylors' Boys' school is a single-sex day school providing education for male pupils aged from seven to eighteen years. Originally founded in 1620 by a Merchant Taylor of London, the school, which includes a junior section for boys aged seven to eleven and a senior section for those aged eleven to eighteen, is part of a group of schools which also includes a co-educational primary school and a single-sex school for female pupils. All the schools are overseen by a single governing body. The school has 59 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities. None has an education, health and care plan. There are 16 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school's previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in February 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 of February 2019.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraphs 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire)	Met
Part 4, paragraph 18 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32 (1)(c)(provision of safeguarding policy)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 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 Implementation of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective in providing appropriate support for pupils' needs.
- 2.5 Safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively to safeguard children at risk and those in need. Staff show effective understanding of their roles including those with particular responsibilities. Procedures for checking staff have continued to be strengthened since the previous inspection. In interviews, staff showed effective understanding of the training they have received in safeguarding, including in appropriate conduct. They are aware of who 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.
- 2.6 The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse including those elements required by most recent changes to statutory guidance. It provides appropriate guidance regarding possible abuse by one or more pupils against another pupil. The DSL acts on and refers the early signs of a child at risk or in need, monitors any potential for radicalisation, and ensures the school listens to the views of individual pupils. Pupils receive guidance on staying safe and show understanding of what they have been taught. They confirm that the school takes action when they express concerns.
- 2.7 The safeguarding policy gives contact details for required local agencies. Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in safeguarding procedures; they include seeking immediate advice from the local authority designated safeguarding officers (LADO). These are implemented effectively when necessary. 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) and this is done effectively.
- 2.8 Review of safeguarding is appropriate. Meetings include review of recruitment procedures as well as liaison with other schools in the foundation. Action to review reported deficiencies in recruitment procedures was suitably prompt and effective.
- 2.9 Training for staff is appropriate, including on induction. Training is held in the school for teaching and non-teaching staff which relates to recent changes in statutory guidance and reflects any incidents in safeguarding which occur in the school. Staff understanding is checked appropriately.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The school has implemented its action plan effectively and all fire doors are kept shut. Review has gone beyond the requirements of the previous inspection to include new fire risk assessments, planning to introduce more fire doors along corridors where possible, installation of enhanced emergency lighting and signage, and focused training for staff and pupils.

Suitability of staff [ISSR Part 4, paragraph 18]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school makes all appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, including checks of medical fitness, through a declaration signed by individual staff. All checks have been completed before staff begin work for all those employed since the previous inspection.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.15 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]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 Appropriate procedures are implemented which allow senior leaders and the proprietor to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements and monitor compliance with regulations. In particular, oversight of staff recruitment has been strengthened as required by senior leaders and governors. Governors reviewed safeguarding, recruitment and fire safety procedures following the previous inspection and proposed actions following that review have been implemented successfully. Monthly review meetings held between senior leaders and governors since that review have monitored progress effectively. Evidence shows that senior leaders and governors promote the well-being of pupils.

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 inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff. He visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies including the single central register of appointments and related staff files.