



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Wakefield Girls' High School

September 2022

School's details

School	Wakefield Girls' High School			
DfE number	384/6114			
Registered charity number	1088415			
Address	Wakefield Girls' High School Wentworth Street Wakefield West Yorkshire WF1 2QS			
Telephone number	01924 372490			
Email address	wsoffice@wgsf.net			
Headmistress	Ms Heidi-Jayne Boyes			
Chair of governors	Mr Simon Chamberlain			
Age range	7 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	778			
	Junior	155	Senior	481
	Sixth Form	142		
Date of inspection	23 September 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Wakefield Girls' High School is an independent day school. It is registered as a single-sex school for female pupils. It is organised into a junior section for pupils aged 7 to 11, a senior section for those aged 11 to 16 and a sixth form. The school is owned and governed by the Wakefield Grammar School Foundation, which comprises this school, a senior school for male pupils and a co-educational pre-preparatory school, all located in Wakefield. The school has 113 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, of whom one has an education, health and care plan. English is an additional language for 121 pupils. The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in January 2022.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance and educational quality inspection on 11 to 14 January 2022. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	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 requirements.
- 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 school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively. Pupils confirm that they feel safe in school and have many adults to whom they could speak about any concerns they may have. When pupils express concerns they receive a suitable response and action is taken when appropriate. Staff are aware of the need to demonstrate professional conduct and they understand the guidance they receive from the school in this area. They know to whom they should refer any concerns and stated clearly their willingness to do so. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and deputies have the appropriate level of advanced training for their roles. They ensure that suitable and regular training is provided for all staff. Recent training has included an emphasis on the reporting of staff allegations and low-level concerns. Longer training sessions are supplemented with weekly updates for staff. All governors have received safeguarding training. Records of training are kept centrally and record how any absences have been followed up.
- 2.5 Senior leaders respond appropriately and promptly to any safeguarding incidents and refer to relevant agencies and police any incidents which meet the threshold of significant harm. All behavioural incidents are recorded centrally so that patterns can be identified. The documentation of any serious incidents is thorough and well organised. It provides clear evidence of timely actions taken and communication with parents and guardians where appropriate. Staff understand the need to refer any allegations against adults working with children and any such allegations are now correctly managed. The headmistress seeks advice promptly and appropriately from the LADO before carrying out any investigation. The chair of governors understands his role should there be an allegation about the headmistress. Staff understand whistleblowing procedures and are confident to use them. The safeguarding governor provides regular support and challenge to the DSL and her team and keeps other governors updated where appropriate. There is an annual review of safeguarding by governors which demonstrates effective oversight. Governors ensure appropriate recruitment procedures operate for new staff.
- 2.6 There are appropriate policies in place to promote pupils' online safety and the school has suitable filters and monitoring systems for the internet. Pupils confirm that they are suitably educated about online risks.

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

- 2.7 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]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.

- 2.9 Governors and school leaders have successfully implemented the actions required as a result of the previous inspection. School leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. They actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, 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 inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the headmistress, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a group of governors. She talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspectors

Mrs Kate McCarey

Reporting inspector