

Progress monitoring inspection report

27 November 2025

Benedict House Preparatory School

27 Station Road

Sidcup

Kent

DA15 7EB

The Independent Schools Inspectorate is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect association independent schools in England. Our inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met, collectively referred to in this report as 'the Standards'.

Inspection outcome

The school meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a), 7(b), 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16(a), 16(b)

1. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy that reflects statutory guidance and provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.
2. Leaders ensure that members of the safeguarding team receive suitable training and have the knowledge to fulfil their roles effectively. Members of the safeguarding team, which includes a designated lead practitioner for the early years, have appropriate authority within the school to carry out their roles effectively.
3. Leaders promote a positive safeguarding culture. All staff and governors receive ongoing safeguarding training and relevant updates. Staff have a secure understanding of the importance of safeguarding. They know how to identify that a child may be at risk of harm and how to report any concerns they may have. Staff are also clear about the procedures for reporting any concerns about the conduct of staff. Staff understand their responsibilities under the 'Prevent' duty and are aware of contextual safeguarding risks. New members of staff receive comprehensive safeguarding training before they take up their role within the school.
4. The safeguarding team keeps detailed records of any concerns, and they record clearly the reasons for their decisions and the actions they take. Leaders liaise effectively with external agencies to access additional support for pupils if required. Leaders ensure that pupils can access support through the school's pastoral system.
5. Governors take part in regular safeguarding training. They understand their responsibilities in relation to the statutory requirements of *Keeping children safe in education* (KCSIE) 2025. The safeguarding governor visits the school regularly to check that the arrangements for safeguarding are effectively implemented. The annual audit and reports to governors' meetings help provide governors with additional assurance that the arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
6. Pupils are taught about staying safe as part of the curriculum, including how to keep themselves and others safe when using the internet. Pupils are knowledgeable about the risks of sharing information and how to report inappropriate online behaviour. Appropriate systems are in place to filter and monitor pupils' internet access while at school. These systems are tested on a regular basis.
7. Leaders ensure that arrangements for health and safety take account of all relevant health and safety requirements. There is a comprehensive health and safety policy which is effectively implemented. Health and safety record-keeping is systematic and robust. Leaders ensure there is a thorough induction programme in place for new staff, alongside regular update training for all staff to maintain health and safety requirements across the school.
8. Leaders ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. First aid is administered in a timely and competent manner, supported by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written first aid policy.

9. Leaders ensure that pupils are properly supervised through appropriate monitoring and deployment of school staff. This includes ensuring that appropriate staff-to-pupil ratios are maintained in the early years.
10. Leaders ensure that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. Leaders have improved and extended the monitoring of attendance since the previous inspection. The attendance champion analyses trends and addresses any issues relating to pupil absence promptly. Leaders ensure that the attendance policy is now published on the school's website and that both the policy and school procedures reflect statutory guidance.
11. The welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted through the effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy, with appropriate action taken to reduce identified risks. Risk assessments are reviewed regularly to ensure that documentation is fully up to date, and all risk assessments signed off by members of the leadership team. A system of daily risk checks is in place, including in the early years setting.
12. The school meets the Standards.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

ISSR paragraph 18(1), 18(2)(c)

13. Leaders carry out appropriate checks to confirm each person's identity, medical fitness, right to work and appropriate qualifications. The single central record of appointments (SCR) contains accurate details of all necessary recruitment checks carried out before staff, volunteers and governors join the school. Leaders and governors oversee the recruitment process and the SCR as part of monitoring the school's arrangements to ensure consistently effective practice. Leaders receive appropriate training in safer recruitment.
14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 25, 28

15. Premises and facilities provided by the school are maintained to a standard that ensures, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of the pupils. The school has a thorough and rigorous approach to maintenance and leaders ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely manner.
16. Suitable drinking water facilities are provided. Toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water, and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water. Cold water supplies suitable for drinking are clearly marked. The temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users.
17. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraphs 32(1)(c)

18. 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.

19. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34(1)(a), (b), (c)

- 20. Governors maintain suitable oversight of the school to ensure that the Standards are met. Governor committees meet with leaders to review policies and procedures and to confirm that they are implemented effectively in practice. Governors scrutinise reports and information that leaders provide, and meet regularly with the leader responsible for safeguarding to verify that safeguarding arrangements are effective.
- 21. Senior leaders and governors effectively implemented a suitable action plan following the previous inspection. Resources have been allocated appropriately, and staff have received relevant training to enable them to carry out their roles effectively and promote the wellbeing of pupils.
- 22. Leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school Standards are met consistently. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively and actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.
- 23. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Benedict House Preparatory School
Department for Education number	303/6060
Address	Benedict House Preparatory School 27 Station Road Sidcup Kent DA15 7EB
Phone number	020 8300 7206
Email address	secretary@benedictprepschool.co.uk
Website	Benedicthouse.co.uk
Proprietor	Chatsworth School Ltd
Chair	Mr Frederick Knipe
Headteacher	Mrs Laura Baker
Age range	2 to 11
Number of pupils	173
Date of previous inspection	21 to 23 January 2025

Information about the school

24. Benedict House Preparatory School is a co-educational day school. Since 2019, the school is owned and overseen by Chatsworth Schools Ltd, which provides the school's governing body of five members. The headteacher took up her post in January 2025.
25. There are 33 children in the early years, organised in one Nursery class (called pre-school) and one Reception class.
26. The school has identified 37 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Five pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
27. The school has identified English as an additional language for nine pupils.
28. The school states its aims are to promote a positive attitude towards lifelong learning; to enable children to be creative and to develop their own critical thinking and problem-solving; to enable children to be positive and respectful citizens who will be able to contribute to society; to ensure that all pupils have equal and fair access to the curriculum; to promote taking care of one's physical and emotional wellbeing and to enable all children to learn and develop their skills to the best of their ability.

Purpose of the progress monitoring inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. This inspection was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection which was carried out at the request of the Department for Education. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

27 November 2025

29. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.

30. Inspection activities included

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- tour of the school site
- discussions with members of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils.

How are association independent schools in England inspected?

- The Department for Education is the regulator for independent schools in England.
- ISI is approved by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect independent schools in England, which are members of associations in membership of the Independent Schools Council.
- ISI inspections report to the Department for Education on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards, the EYFS statutory framework requirements, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other relevant Standards are met.
- For more information, please visit **www.isi.net**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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