



Over two-and-a-half days in mid-October 2025, the Inspection Team observed lessons and co-curricular activities, spoke with pupils, staff and governors and examined policies, records and pupils' work. They also drew on feedback from pupils, parents and staff who completed ISI's pre-inspection surveys.

The report includes many comments which reflect the vibrant, caring, and ambitious environment we are committed to providing every day at Cokethorpe. In addition to several highlights identified, we were very pleased to see from the survey data that 99% of pupils feel safe at school and 96% feel happy here, with the same levels of agreement from parents. On an academic front, pupils report that their teachers give them what they need to learn (97%) and feel supported to improve their work (94%). In terms of co-curricular, 96% of parents and 95% of pupils agree that the School offers a suitable range of activities, and similarly high figures identify the role we play in encouraging physical fitness.

Although the above statistics provide evidence - as we anticipated - of a happy and safe community, the inspectors identified an area of safeguarding in which they judged that not all aspects of statutory guidance were being met. Specifically, this related to the statutory guidance around the assessment, mitigation and documentation of risks to vulnerable pupils and the wider school community following safeguarding incidents. Where any individual standard is unmet, this necessitates the leadership and governance standard to also be recorded as 'unmet'.

We take our obligations regarding safeguarding extremely seriously, and (again, according to the ISI survey data) 100% of staff are confident in what to do when they have concerns about the welfare and safety of students. The inspection has, however, highlighted the need for us to strengthen our documentation around decision-making following safeguarding incidents, and the implementation and monitoring of safeguarding risk assessments. We are acting swiftly, not only to address this aspect of compliance but to use the opportunity to:

- Put in place additional staff training and structure further regular governor oversight to reinforce best practice.
- Ensure robust processes are in place for assessing, monitoring and reviewing the risks around any vulnerable individuals so that our practices fully reflect statutory guidance.
- Invest in market-leading safeguarding software, which will support our processes for ensuring that all decision-making is fully documented, assessed, and reviewed.

We anticipate a 'no-notice monitoring inspection' during the course of this academic year to review our progress; we welcome this with no doubt that full compliance will be demonstrated at this time.

Whilst inspectors have highlighted an area for improvement, we should not lose sight of the many great strengths of our community which were identified. These included:

- "The school promotes pupils' confidence and self-esteem. Staff know pupils well and build positive relationships in their form groups and houses so that pupils trust them"

- [The vertical house system] “is successful in promoting the welfare of pupils so that they develop a sense of belonging and are well supported academically and pastorally”
- “teachers [...] are reflective and adapt readily to the needs of the pupils” (Prep)
- “...pupils are motivated and keen to learn. They participate enthusiastically in a variety of activities in their lessons and are supported by their teachers to make good progress” (Senior)
- “Leaders have designed a comprehensive assessment framework throughout the school so that pupils’ progress is carefully monitored”
- “Pupils receive helpful feedback from their teachers so that they understand how to improve and can focus on their long-term goals”
- “Pupils also benefit from a diverse co-curricular programme, which is fully embedded in the school day. This enables pupils to enjoy a wide range of new experiences and develop new skills”
- “...a culture of participation and community cohesion”

We are extremely proud of the strengths highlighted in the report, as well as being committed to act on the areas for improvement identified.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Squire'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Dr Sarah Squire  
Head