

# Progress monitoring inspection report

9 February 2026

## **Cokethorpe School**

Cokethorpe Park

Witney

OX29 7PU

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) and 7(b) and 16; EYFS 3.5 and 3.91

1. The safeguarding policy and procedures in the school fully reflect statutory guidance. The school effectively promotes the welfare of pupils, including children in the early years.
2. Members of the safeguarding team receive training appropriate to their role. All staff receive regular safeguarding training. As a result, staff possess the necessary knowledge to recognise and report any concerns, including those involving child-on-child sexual harassment.
3. Staff are trained to use the school's electronic reporting systems effectively. They promptly communicate any concerns to leaders who hold specific safeguarding responsibilities. Leaders follow the processes set out in Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) and those of the local safeguarding partners, so that pupils receive timely and appropriate support when required.
4. The safeguarding team takes prompt action whenever safeguarding concerns, including any related to child-on-child sexual harassment, arise. It liaises with relevant external safeguarding agencies effectively. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that safeguarding records clearly identify the nature of safeguarding concerns that arise and document the school's responses to these and the rationale for the actions and decisions taken.
5. Governors and leaders review the school's safeguarding policy annually. They visit the school and receive regular reports on safeguarding trends and an overview of actions. As a result, they give effective support and challenge to leaders, including in the monitoring of any safeguarding risk assessments. This ensures appropriate mitigation and management of risk for vulnerable pupils and for the school community.
6. Staff understand how to report any low-level concerns or allegations about adults working in the school. Leaders take appropriate actions should any such concerns arise and keep suitable records of these concerns and how the school has responded to them.
7. Pupils know who to go to and how to access support. There are a variety of age-appropriate mechanisms for pupils to raise concerns. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that any safeguarding concerns reported by pupils are responded to swiftly and effectively. Leaders continually review the school's responses to any such concerns.
8. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. A suitable internet filtering and monitoring system is in place and tested in line with requirements.
9. Safer recruitment processes are in line with statutory requirements. All necessary suitability checks are conducted when required and recorded accurately in the single central record of appointments (SCR) and accompanying staff files.
10. The risk assessment policy includes clear processes for the assessment and reduction of risks relating to the welfare and safeguarding of pupils. It gives appropriate guidance to staff on how to reduce risks in line with school procedures. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that there is appropriate assessment of risk relating to vulnerable pupils and the wider community following any

safeguarding concern being raised. These documented risk assessments suitably identify how any such safeguarding risks are to be mitigated.

11. The school meets the Standards.

### **Part 6. Provision of information**

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

12. The required information about the safeguarding policy is published for parents on the school's website.

13. The school meets the Standard.

### **Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools**

ISSR paragraph 34

14. Governors ensure that leaders demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to ensure that pupils' welfare, health and safety are promoted.

15. Following the previous inspection and in line with the school's vision for its continued improvement, leaders and governors have completed a thorough review of school policy, procedure and culture. Governors visit the school and receive regular reports on planned changes and developments. They ensure that the action plan produced to meet previously unmet standards is fully and effectively implemented.

16. Senior leaders monitor the actions of year group leaders responsible for children's and pupils' pastoral support. They hold regular weekly meetings with staff responsible for pupils' pastoral care across the school, pupils' trips and visits, pupils' health care and the support for those pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Through this process, leaders ensure that the needs of vulnerable pupils and the wider school community are suitably considered in risk assessment and when planning school events or responding to arising situations. Leaders ensure that any changes in school procedures are only carried out after consideration of the possible consequences and risks for vulnerable pupils and that suitable mitigation is included in planning, so that the risk of unintended consequences is reduced.

17. The leaders and managers of the school fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that pupils' wellbeing is actively promoted.

18. The school meets the Standards.

## School details

<b>School</b>	Cokethorpe School
<b>Department for Education number</b>	931/6046
<b>Address</b>	Cokethorpe School Cokethorpe Park Witney Oxfordshire OX29 7PU
<b>Phone number</b>	01993 703921
<b>Email address</b>	hma@cokethorpe.org
<b>Website</b>	www.cokethorpe.org
<b>Proprietor</b>	Cokethorpe Educational Trust Ltd
<b>Chair</b>	Mr John Bennett
<b>Headteacher</b>	Dr Sarah Squire
<b>Age range</b>	4 to 18
<b>Number of pupils</b>	573
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	14 to 16 October 2025

## Information about the school

19. Cokethorpe School is a co-educational independent day school situated in west Oxfordshire. It is overseen by a board of governors. The school was founded in 1957 as a boarding school for male pupils. It became co-educational in 1992. The school consists of a prep school, which includes an early years setting, a senior school and a sixth form, which are located on the same site.
20. There are five children in the early years in one Reception class.
21. The school has identified 85 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Three pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
22. The school has identified a very small number of pupils for whom English is an additional language.
23. The school states that its aims are to provide research-informed education for its pupils. It intends to inspire and guide pupils to discover their passions, to pursue excellence and to learn from mistakes.

## Purpose of the progress monitoring

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, Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

## Inspection details

### Inspection dates

9 February 2026

24. One reporting inspector visited the school for a day.

25. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- 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](http://www.isi.net)**.

#### Independent Schools Inspectorate

CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

For more information, please visit [isi.net](http://isi.net)