



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Report for an Additional Inspection**

**Yarm Preparatory School**

**June 2022**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Yarm Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	808/6003			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	507290			
<b>Address</b>	Yarm Preparatory School Grammar School Lane Yarm North Yorkshire TS15 9ES			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01642781447			
<b>Email address</b>	prepschool@yarmschool.org			
<b>Headmaster</b>	Mr William Sawyer			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Mark Thompson			
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 11			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	404			
	<b>Preparatory</b>	309	<b>EYFS</b>	95
<b>Date of visit</b>	7 June 2022			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Yarm Preparatory school is an independent day school situated in Yarm, North Yorkshire. The school is divided into two sections; the preparatory school site, for pupils in Years 3 to 6, and the adjoining site which houses the pre-preparatory and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) departments. The school is one of the two schools which form the Yarm Foundation, alongside the senior school, which is located a short distance from the preparatory school. Both schools are overseen by a single governing body. The school has 18 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities, none of whom has an education, health and care plan. The school has nine pupils who speak English as an additional language, of whom three receive specialist support from the school.
- 1.2 The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and education quality inspection in February 2022.

### Purpose of the visit

- 1.3 This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) which focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ISSRs and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding); EYFS 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety); EYFS 3.55	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 13 (first aid); EYFS 3.25, 3.45 and 3.46	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision of pupils); EYFS 3.28-3.30	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment); EYFS 3.65	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph7; EYFS 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7]

#### 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 and the requirements.
- 2.4 The school implements its safeguarding arrangements effectively. It consults effectively with the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP). Staff, including those in the EYFS, confirmed during discussion that they have a secure understanding of their responsibilities regarding both safeguarding and whistleblowing. They are clear when contact needs to be made with a referral agency and who they should go to in the school if they are unclear about how to deal with a pupil welfare incident. In particular, the school seeks prompt advice should there be a concern about a pupil or allegation against any adult working with children. It ensures that the welfare needs of the pupil, at all stages in the preparatory school, including in the EYFS are prioritised. Records kept of any incident which could be considered to be of a safeguarding nature are comprehensive and any concerns are promptly and appropriately brought to the attention of the local safeguarding agencies. Instances of serious child-on-child abuse, should they occur, including any related to sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual behaviour, are notified appropriately to relevant agencies, and police where appropriate.
- 2.5 All staff have received recent comprehensive training with regard to their safeguarding responsibilities; all training, including that for those with designated safeguarding responsibilities is in line with the requirements of HSSCP. Staff training includes updates of the school's safeguarding policy, the staff code of conduct and procedures for reporting any allegations. Regular briefings ensure that staff and the governors are kept up to date with new legislation. Staff are required to complete online safeguarding and child-on-child abuse training as well as Prevent training. Arrangements to recruit staff are appropriate. Staff new to the school, including teaching assistants, receive appropriate induction training. All staff have been trained in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021, including Part 1 and Annexes A and B as required. Their understanding of what they have read is checked appropriately by the designated safeguarding lead. Training records confirm that all staff have undertaken required training.
- 2.6 The school liaises appropriately with parents about safeguarding concerns that arise and ensures that parental wishes do not override the best interests of the child. Pupils say that they are aware of the safeguarding arrangements in the school, including on-line safety and the appropriate use of mobile phones and cameras. Pupils confirmed that should they have a concern or worry they are confident that staff are available to listen to them, that they receive a response, and that appropriate actions would be taken where necessary. A suitable annual review of safeguarding procedures covers relevant practice and addresses any changes required in safeguarding arrangements, including those related to child-on-child abuse. An effective review of the school's processes and procedures is also held after any serious incident with appropriate action taken.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11; EYFS 3.55]**

- 2.7 The school meets the standard and the requirement.
- 2.8 The school has an appropriate health and safety policy and this is effectively implemented. To ensure site safety senior leaders hold weekly meetings, supported by at least termly visits by the health and safety governor. Teaching staff in all sections of the school are required to carry out weekly safety checks and, in the pre-prep and EYFS there are appropriate allocated daily checks to ensure the site is safe for pupils. This includes both internal and external play areas for the youngest pupils. Any area or item being designated as unsafe for play is immediately removed from availability until either a suitable replacement is obtained, or a repair is made. This ensures that the site is kept as safe as is practicably possible. Recording of accidents which take place in school is appropriate.
- 2.9 The school further ensures that in the EYFS, overall floor space and outdoor spaces are fit for purpose, suitable for the age of the children cared for, and appropriate to the activities provided. This also includes the health and safety legislation relevant to fire safety and hygiene requirements. All new staff receive health and safety induction training and when required, all staff receive appropriate refresher and update training sessions, a number of which are provided by external agencies. The governors ensure that the school acts promptly on any health and safety recommendations which may affect the welfare of pupils and staff.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – first aid [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 13; EYFS 3.25, 3.45 and 3.46]**

- 2.10 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.11 The school implements an appropriate policy for first aid. All staff have received basic first-aid training. All staff in the EYFS have undertaken paediatric first-aid training. This has recently been renewed. An appropriate number of designated staff in both the pre-prep, prep and EYFS sections of the school have undertaken higher level first aid training and all staff in EYFS have undertaken paediatric first-aid training. First-aid boxes are strategically placed around the school and first-aid kits are always available in the school playgrounds when pupils are playing outside. In the event of a pupil needing to access off-site medical treatment the welfare needs of the pupil are always put first. If necessary, appropriate contact with external agencies is made. In the event of a first aid or medical issue arising with a pupil, staff are clear of the process to follow, including the need to consider a safeguarding referral should this be necessary.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; EYFS 3.28-3.30]**

- 2.12 The school meets the standard and the requirements.
- 2.13 Arrangements for the supervision of pupils are well documented and planned effectively to ensure that pupils are safeguarded. School staff are allocated appropriately to break and lunchtime supervision duties as well as to pre- and after-school periods. Arrangements are in place to include the use of mobile phones for communication when supervising pupils. There is appropriate supervision of pupils in remote locations and of children within EYFS, where ratios of staff to children are suitable. Areas and times of supervision are adjusted in the light of any incidents that occur and in the case of those pupils who require close monitoring if there is a specific welfare need.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16; EYFS 3.65]**

- 2.14 The school meets the standard and the requirement.
- 2.15 An efficient and effective approach is taken to managing risk to ensure the welfare of all pupils in the school. An appropriate risk assessment policy is implemented, and staff have all received training in assessing risk for their respective areas and for organising school outings. Scrutiny of risk assessment documents shows that appropriate evaluations are undertaken across all age groups, which includes suitable consideration of the needs of children in the EYFS. Risk assessments are appropriate and comprehensive, identifying possible risks whilst suggesting appropriate control measures to mitigate identified risks. Where there is a perceived need, the school produces individual pupil risk assessments to ensure the welfare and safeguarding needs of pupils. All risk assessments are reviewed and signed off by senior leaders and a governing board member ensures that there is suitable oversight of the arrangements.

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

- 2.16 The school meets the requirement for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website and are provided to parents on request.

**Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]**

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 Leadership and management ensure that the required policies and records are appropriately maintained, effectively monitored and efficiently implemented. Staff throughout all sections of the school, in particular in the EYFS, are appropriately supervised and are regularly required to update their practice by undertaking professional development courses, which are recorded within each teachers' professional development log. The governing board ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the 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 requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this visit.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the headmaster, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the safeguarding governor. They visited the different areas of the school, including the EYFS and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.