

Progress monitoring inspection report

10 to 11 December 2024

Bales College

2j Kilburn Lane

London

W10 4AA

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 checked during this inspection.

Inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

ISSR Paragraphs 2(1)(a), 2(2)(a), (e), (g) and (i); 2A(1)(b), (d), (e), (f) and (g)

1. At the time of the previous routine inspection, the proprietor had not ensured the curriculum gave pupils in Years 7 to 11 experience in technological education. Leaders have put in place a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides pupils with experience of the technological aspects of education. Leaders have provided guidance so that teachers have the relevant knowledge and skills to teach the curriculum well. The curriculum includes topics such as energy transfer, computer coding and robot building. The extra-curricular computer club and year-group workshops further develop pupils' understanding of technological applications.
2. Previously, the proprietor did not ensure that pupils in Years 7 to 13 received suitable careers advice. Leaders have put in place appropriately structured and up-to-date careers advice. Information about careers is presented in an impartial manner. Pupils explore the possibilities of continuing their studies through further and higher education and through apprenticeships. A suitable programme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education teaches pupils about the skills required in the workplace. Pupils learn how to build curriculum vitae and complete work experience either online or in-person. Older pupils meet with an external advisor who provides informed advice to individual pupils. Pupils also attend a careers workshop which enables them to talk to potential employers and work experience providers. Pupils in Year 12 and Year 13 receive suitable guidance on university and/or apprenticeship applications.
3. Pupils in the sixth form now benefit from an extra-curricular programme which provides activities appropriate to their needs and interests. They can take part in suitably organised clubs which develop their skills and interests in music, drama, film studies, chess and table tennis, for example.
4. These extra-curricular opportunities, together with the work of the school council and the PSHE education programme, provide effective preparation of the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.
5. Leaders ensure that pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 are provided with relationships and sex education (RSE) which meets statutory requirements. An appropriate policy is available on the school website. RSE is taught through the PSHE programme and includes relevant topics such as how to stay safe at parties, nurturing healthy relationships, misogyny and understanding consent. Older pupils benefit from workshops on managing the transition from school to university and living independently.
6. The school meets the Standards.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 11, 13, 16(a) and 16(b)

7. The proprietor ensures that safeguarding processes and procedures are implemented effectively. The proprietor has appointed a new designated safeguarding leader. Safeguarding leaders are members of the school's senior management team. They have been appropriately trained, are suitably

knowledgeable and coordinate their work effectively. Safeguarding leaders ensure that all staff receive appropriate training, including at induction, and are provided with regular updates about safeguarding issues and procedures. There is prompt and appropriate liaison with the local authority, children's services and the police.

8. The proprietor provides effective oversight of the school's safeguarding processes and is appropriately trained and well informed. He liaises frequently with the safeguarding leadership team. The annual report on safeguarding and child protection provides him with a formal and detailed assessment of action taken by leaders during the academic year to address safeguarding concerns.
9. Staff are confident in the procedures to report concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Staff act promptly to ensure that pupils are appropriately supported. Safeguarding leaders liaise effectively with external agencies so that pupils and families can access the help they need. The designated safeguarding leader undertakes suitable welfare checks on all overseas pupils at the school.
10. Leaders ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring of the school's internet is in place. They receive daily reports so that any inappropriate use of the internet is promptly identified and suitable action can be taken. Pupils learn how to stay safe online. They can raise concerns with trusted adults who respond promptly and supportively.
11. The proprietor ensures that the school complies with the relevant health and safety laws by drawing up and implementing effectively a suitable health and safety policy. Systematically maintained records show that appropriate checks are conducted regularly. Work required to ensure the safety of the school's electrical systems and equipment has been completed and formally checked.
12. There is suitable medical accommodation, and staff are appropriately trained to administer first aid. Pupils receive appropriate medical support when they are unwell or require first aid, and suitable records of the administration of first aid or medication are maintained. Accidents are recorded and appropriate remedial action is taken, when necessary.
13. There is effective assessment of risk and planned mitigations. Leaders are appropriately trained in risk assessment and ensure risk assessment training is provided for staff. Staff receive suitable guidance and oversight in preparing risk assessments which include school activities, educational visits and the risk of radicalisation. Designated safeguarding leaders provide effective risk assessments in relation to international students and to meet the needs of pupils who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraph 25

15. Effectively implemented procedures and routines enable the proprietor to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, that the premises, accommodation and facilities are maintained to a high standard to support pupils' health, safety and welfare.
16. The school meets the Standard.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(a) and (c), (2)(a)

17. Leaders ensure that the school's safeguarding policy meets current statutory requirements and is published on the school's website.
18. The proprietor ensures that the school's address and telephone number and the name of the head teacher are available to parents on the school's website.
19. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

20. The proprietor has taken appropriate action since the previous routine inspection to ensure that leaders have received appropriate training and clearly understand their roles in effective risk management and safeguarding. Leaders now demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively. Appropriate changes have been made to school policies and procedures to address the Standards that were unmet at the previous inspection. The proprietor has ensured that the school's action plan has been effectively implemented so that the independent school Standards are now met, and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.
21. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Bales College
Department for Education number	213/6384
Address	Bales College 2j Kilburn Lane London W10 4AA
Phone number	020 8960 5899
Email address	info@balescollege.co.uk
Website	www.balescollege.co.uk
Proprietor	Mr William Moore
Headteacher	Dr Benjamin Moore
Age range	11 to 20
Number of pupils	100
Date of previous inspection	29 April to 2 May 2024

Information about the school

23. Bales College is a co-educational day school located in the London Borough of Westminster. The sole proprietor is Mr William Moore.
24. The school has identified 22 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Twenty pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
25. English is an additional language for four pupils.
26. The school states that its aims are derived from the core values of respect, humour, energy and perseverance. It strives to help pupils grow personally and academically so that they each achieve their individual potential.

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 DfE. 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 10 and 11 December 2024

27. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for two days.
28. 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 to assess the standard of the premises and accommodation
 - discussions with the proprietor
 - discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
 - discussions with pupils
 - observation of a PSHE education/RSE lesson
 - scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school.

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

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

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