

Material change inspection report

16 January 2025

Centre Academy East Anglia

Church Road

Brettenham

Ipswich

Suffolk

IP7 7QR

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 has requested a material change to increase pupil numbers from 82 to 110. Leaders plan to enable smaller class sizes, facilitated by the appointment of more staff. The present accommodation is sufficient and suitable to allow this change.

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is recommended that the material change be approved.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils.

ISSR Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b); 11 health and safety; 12 fire; 14 supervision; 16(a) and (b) risk assessment.

1. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.
2. Leaders ensure that the safeguarding policy is implemented effectively and understood by staff. Suitable measures are taken to reduce the risk to pupils of radicalisation. The designated safeguarding lead and their deputies ensure that safeguarding concerns are reported, recorded, collated and monitored effectively and that appropriate actions are taken. Safeguarding records are suitably detailed and securely stored. There are effective relationships with local agencies and safeguarding leaders make appropriate referrals without delay. The safeguarding arrangements are reviewed annually by the governing body with suitable diligence. Leaders have increased the size of the safeguarding team so that it has sufficient capacity to ensure effective safeguarding implementation regarding the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
3. Pupils know that they can share concerns with staff and that prompt steps will be taken to support them. Staff understand the importance of early help provision and child-on-child abuse and take appropriate timely action when required. Pupils confirmed they feel safe at school. Staff understand the needs of the pupils at the school. Leaders ensure that training in safeguarding for staff, all members of the safeguarding team and the governors, is comprehensive. Leaders have placed due emphasis on the continuing and frequent provision of this training, recognising the additional safeguarding demands which may result from the planned increase in pupil numbers. The use of technology by pupils is suitably controlled, including by effective monitoring and filtering of the internet, and they are taught how to stay safe online.
4. Where allegations are made about the behaviour of staff, the school responds appropriately, making prompt referral to external agencies, including the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Disclosure and Barring Service and Teaching Regulation Agency if necessary.
5. The school meets health and safety requirements. The proprietor and senior leaders oversee and monitor health and safety effectively. Staff have an effective understanding of health and safety matters and receive suitable training. Leaders have reviewed health and safety procedures with regard for the planned material change so that current and future additional pupils will continue to benefit from being safe, and feeling safe, in school.

6. The school's fire risk policy is implemented effectively. Recommended actions from the most recent assessments have been appropriately prioritised and carried out in a timely manner. Staff receive appropriate fire safety training and demonstrate suitable awareness of risks, prevention and procedures in a fire emergency. Appropriate equipment is provided and maintenance of alarms and other equipment is recorded carefully and effectively. Regular fire drills are held and pupils are confident regarding evacuation procedures. Leaders have reviewed the current fire safety arrangements to make sure that they will be suitable for an increased number of pupils on site.
7. Suitable guidance and procedures are in place to ensure pupils are supervised effectively throughout the school day, including when offsite and engaged in outdoor activities. Leaders have ensured that the intended increase in pupil numbers are being matched by an appropriate increase in staffing levels, so that effective supervision can be maintained.
8. There is an appropriate risk assessment policy which provides for systematic risk assessment and pays attention to key areas of risk and pupils' welfare. These include pupils' activities onsite and offsite, and specific aspects of risk related to their special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff receive relevant training and completed risk assessments are checked, monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness. Leaders have risk assessed the school's provision regarding the proposed increase in numbers of pupils.
9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21

10. The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and these are noted accurately in the single central record. Leaders' effective safe recruitment procedures are applied consistently in the appointment of additional staff related to the planned expansion of the school roll.
11. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 23 toilet, washing and changing facilities; 24 accommodation for medical needs; 25 maintenance; acoustics, 26-29 lighting, water supply and outdoor space.

12. Toilet, washing and changing facilities are suitable in number and quality, particularly regarding pupils' hygiene, personal privacy and dignity requirements.
13. The school has suitable accommodation, which includes washing and toilet facilities, for the medical examination and treatment of pupils.
14. The school premises are maintained to a suitable standard. Routine and emergency maintenance tasks are carried out efficiently. There are effective means whereby staff can report any concerns regarding the premises.
15. Acoustics, internal and external lighting, drinking water, water supply and outdoor space are each of a suitable standard.

16. Leaders have accurately evaluated the sufficiency and quality of the school's present premises and accommodation to ensure that the planned increase in pupil numbers can be provided for without the need for refurbishment or extension of existing buildings, or the addition of new buildings. Their evaluation shows that no enhancements are required. Similarly, they have considered the sufficiency of existing outdoor space and facilities and there is no immediate need for extra provision to proceed with the material change.
17. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

18. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. The arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.
19. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34

20. The proprietor ensures that the leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the Standards are met consistently, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.
21. The proprietor, leaders and managers have prepared comprehensively regarding the proposed material change with a well-documented, clearly expressed intention to enhance the school's educational provision through carefully planned expansion. They have systematically reviewed the school's provision to identify potential risks associated with an increase in pupil numbers and have put suitable arrangements in place to mitigate such risks.
22. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Centre Academy East Anglia
Department for Education number	935/6058
Address	Centre Academy East Anglia Church Road Brettenham Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7QR
Phone number	01449736404
Email address	admin@centreacademy.uk
Website	www.centreacademy.net
Proprietor	Mr Rohan Murphy
Headteacher	Mrs Lisa Gilbert
Age range	7 to 19
Number of pupils	82
Date of previous inspection	23 April 2024

Information about the school

24. Centre Academy East Anglia is an independent co-educational day special school near Ipswich in Suffolk. Originally established as The Old Rectory School in 1981, it became Centre Academy East Anglia in 2010. The school is owned by the proprietor and supported by an advisory board of governors, which includes the head.
25. The school has identified all pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). All pupils in the school have an education, health, and care (EHC) plan.
26. English is an additional language for a very small number of pupils.

Purpose of the material change

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the DfE to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the Independent School Standards if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

16 January 2025

27. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.
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 inspect health and safety and fire safety arrangements and the suitability of premises and accommodation
 - discussions with the proprietor
 - 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

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

For more information, please visit isi.net