

# Progress monitoring inspection report

27 June 2025

## **Beechwood School**

12 Pembury Road  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
TN2 3QD

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 (b), 8(a) and (b), 16(a) and (b); NMS 8 and 9; EYFS 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.75

1. Since the previous inspection, leaders have significantly improved the recording of safeguarding concerns and the use of risk assessments as well as improving liaison with external agencies such as the local authority. Leaders ensure that a suitable safeguarding policy which fully reflects statutory guidance is in place and is now effectively implemented. The safeguarding team is appropriately trained. They now participate in termly local authority training to ensure their knowledge remains both up to date and relevant to the location of the school. Leaders understand the contextual risks to the pupils, including boarders, and take appropriate steps to mitigate these risks. Staff are vigilant and understand how to recognise safeguarding concerns including those relating to radicalisation.
2. Leaders have now implemented procedures to ensure that safeguarding records are maintained in accordance with statutory guidance. Staff understand the importance of prompt reporting of safeguarding concerns which are followed up promptly. Records are now thorough, securely stored and include the rationale for leaders' actions and how these are followed up.
3. Leaders liaise effectively with external agencies such as the local authority children's services and the police. Leaders are persistent in helping to ensure that pupils and their families can access the support that they need. Leaders make prompt referrals to social care and are diligent in assessing, recording and systematically reviewing risks to individual pupils and considering how these can be mitigated.
4. Leaders now take appropriate and prompt action in dealing with concerns about the behaviour of adults working in the school. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) now seeks advice promptly from the local authority designated officer (LADO) and acts on this in an appropriate way and without delay. The DSL maintains detailed records of low-level concerns relating to staff, which they monitor carefully in order to identify and act on any trends or patterns. As a result of further training leaders now understand when and how referrals to the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) must be made.
5. Leaders ensure that staff are well trained in safeguarding. Staff understand how to report concerns about the welfare of pupils or the behaviour of staff and do this without delay. Leaders have thought carefully about the risks associated with the use of the internet, and pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe online. Leaders ensure that suitable internet monitoring and filtering arrangements are in place, that these arrangements are appropriately reviewed for effectiveness and that they remain robust.
6. Leaders ensure that a suitable risk assessment policy is in place. This is now robustly implemented and covers risks in relation to conduct and concerns relating to staff. Staff have suitable training to assess and record risks appropriately. Risk assessments are comprehensive, suitably reviewed and effectively put into practice in order to manage identified risks and hazards.
7. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraphs 32(1)(c), 32(1)(d)

8. The school's appropriate arrangements to safeguard children are published on the school's website
9. Leaders had not ensured that all the school's inspection reports were published on the school's website as required. This was rectified before the end of the on-site inspection.
10. 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), 34(2); NMS 2

11. Leaders have successfully implemented their detailed action plan following the previous inspection. This involved additional training for staff including for the safeguarding team in understanding local thresholds and procedures. Leaders have now established effective working relationships with the local authority to help ensure that the school's procedures now fully reflect statutory guidance.
12. Governors and the proprietor have put in place a formalised reporting structure. This helps them to oversee leaders' work more rigorously. This also helps them ensure that the Standards are consistently met.
13. The proprietor now ensures that leaders have the skills, knowledge and understanding to carry out their roles effectively so that the standards are met. Governors visit the school frequently to verify reports from leaders through discussions with pupils and staff. Governors provide suitable support and challenge to senior leaders. Leaders ensure that staff who are leading and working in boarding are suitably trained.
14. The school meets the Standards.

## School details

<b>School</b>	Beechwood School
<b>Department for Education number</b>	886/6011
<b>Address</b>	Beechwood School 12 Pembury Road Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN2 3QD
<b>Phone number</b>	01892 532747
<b>Email address</b>	info@beechwood.org.uk
<b>Website</b>	www.beechwood.org.uk
<b>Proprietor</b>	Alpha Schools (Holdings Ltd)
<b>Chair</b>	Mr Ali Kahn
<b>Headteacher</b>	Ms Danielle Saffer
<b>Age range</b>	3 to 18
<b>Number of pupils</b>	362
<b>Number of boarding pupils</b>	40
<b>Number of children in the early years</b>	25
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	3 to 4 June 2024

## Information about the school

15. Beechwood School is a co-educational boarding and day school situated in Royal Tunbridge Wells. The school consists of a pre-prep, for pupils aged 3 to 7 years, which includes the early years setting, the prep section, for those pupils aged 7 to 11 years, the senior section for pupils aged 11 to 16 and a sixth form for pupils aged 16 to 18. Since the previous inspection, a new headteacher has been appointed in September 2024.
16. Pupils are able to board from the age of 11. There is one boarding house located within the main school building.
17. There is one Nursery class and one Reception class in the early years setting.
18. The school has identified 49 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Five pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
19. The school has identified ten pupils for whom English is an additional language.
20. The school states that its aims are to be a vibrant, caring school that enables all pupils to make the most of their talents. It further seeks to enable pupils to develop a sense of responsibility and equip pupils with the values, skills and habits that will help shape their future world.

## 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, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and the 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

27 June 2025

21. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.

22. 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 the proprietor and members of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils
- a tour of the boarding house and the early years provision.

### **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)**.

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