



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report

Crackley Hall School

June 2022

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School's Details

School	Crackley Hall School			
DfE number	937/6001			
Registered charity number	1087124			
Address	Crackley Hall School St Joseph's Park Kenilworth Warwickshire CV8 2FT			
Telephone number	01926 514444			
Email address	post@crackleyhall.co.uk			
Headmaster	Mr Robert Duigan			
Chair of trustees	Mrs Elizabeth Griffin			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	316			
	EYFS	86	Juniors	230
Inspection dates	15 to 17 June 2022			

1. Background Information

About the school

- 1.1 Crackley Hall School is an independent co-educational day school located in Kenilworth. It is one of the junior schools of the Princethorpe Foundation, a company limited by guarantee and a charity. The directors of the company are the trustees and have overall responsibility for management of the Foundation.
- 1.2 The inspection took into account the circumstances faced by schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed by government guidance at various points of the pandemic.

What the school seeks to do

- 1.3 The purpose of the Foundation is to create a caring Christian environment where pupils can become well-educated, articulate young people, ready to take their place in society with a true sense of values and purpose.

About the pupils

- 1.4 Pupils come from a range of professional, business, farming and cultural backgrounds, mostly living within a 15-mile radius of the school. The school's assessment data indicate that the ability profile of pupils is slightly above average compared to those taking the same tests nationally. It has identified 57 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), including 19 who receive additional specialist help. Five pupils in the school have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 2 pupils, whose needs are supported by their classroom teachers and specialist teaching. Data used by the school have identified 21 pupils as the most able in the school's population, and the curriculum is modified for them and for 32 other pupils due to their special talents in sport, music and the performing arts.

2. Regulatory Compliance Inspection

Preface

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is approved by the Secretary of State to inspect schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and report on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards ('the standards') in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Inspections of schools with early years settings not requiring registration also report whether the school complies with key provisions of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, and for registered settings the full range of the Early Years Foundation Stage provisions is considered. Additionally, inspections report on the school's accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. Inspections also comment on the progress made to meet any compliance action points set out in the school's most recent statutory inspection.

ISI inspections are also carried out under the arrangements of the ISC Associations for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of their membership.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school's compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated and the school is required to take the actions specified.

Additionally, this visit serves as a material change visit to assess the school's proposal to increase pupil numbers to a maximum of 300.

Inspections do not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as: an exhaustive health and safety audit; compliance with data protection requirements; an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features; contractual arrangements with parents; an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Inspectors may be aware of individual safeguarding concerns, allegations and complaints as part of the inspection process. Such matters will not usually be referred to specifically in published reports in this document but will have been considered by the team in reaching its judgements.

Links to the standards and requirements can be found here: [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#).

Key findings

- 2.1 The school meets the standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, and associated requirements, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.**

PART 1 – Quality of education provided

- 2.2 The school's own framework for assessment confirms that teaching enables pupils to make good progress in the context of Part 1 paragraph 3(a).
- 2.3 The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.
- 2.4 Pupils receive relationships education. The school has consulted parents and published a written statement of its policy which has regard to the relevant statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.**

PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- 2.6 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.
- 2.7 The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.**

PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 2.8 Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.
- 2.9 The standards relating to welfare, health and safety [paragraphs 6–16], the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met.**

PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- 2.10 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.
- 2.11 The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17–21] are met.**

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 2.12 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are

appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

2.13 The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] are met.

PART 6 – Provision of information

2.14 A range of information is published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. This includes details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for any with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. It also includes particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

2.15 The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

2.16 Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

2.17 The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.18 The proprietor 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.

2.19 The standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] is met.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

Summary of findings

The school has requested approval to increase its capacity to 300 in order to add an additional class in Key Stage 1. In anticipation of the planned growth, the school has already invested in the buildings and staffing, made timetable changes and altered logistical arrangements.

The inspection considered ISSRs: 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 34, and parts 4 and 5 in the light of this request.

The school's safeguarding policy and practices provide suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. Evidence gathered during the visit indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

Arrangements for the management of health and safety ensure that the relevant requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety. Changes have been made to the arrangements for pupils' arrival and collection to keep the larger proposed number of pupils safe. Evidence indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

The supervision of pupils is carefully planned to ensure that there is adequate supervision of all pupils at all times of the school day. In anticipation of the increased pupil roll, the school has appointed additional teaching staff and teaching assistants and a staggered lunchtime has been introduced. Evidence indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

The school takes a thorough and focused approach to risk assessment, appropriate for the current and proposed pupil numbers. Evidence indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

School managers demonstrate a secure understanding of safer recruitment requirements. Checks are undertaken as required and an accurate register is kept. Evidence gathered indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

The school premises are well maintained and provide suitable accommodation for the needs of the proposed numbers and ages of pupils. In recent years, the school has invested in a range of new classrooms and other facilities, including additional outdoor space for learning and play. Evidence indicates that these arrangements will continue to be suitable should the material change be approved.

School leaders and managers have ensured that the other standards are met and appropriate arrangements have been implemented to ensure appropriate provision for the number of pupils proposed should the material change be approved.

Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the school's request to increase its numbers to 300 be approved.

4. Inspection Evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors observed lessons, had discussions with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff and with the chair of trustees and the safeguarding trustee, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended assemblies. Inspectors visited the facilities for the youngest pupils, together with the learning support and educational resource areas. Inspectors considered the responses of parents, staff and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires. The inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mrs Sarah Dawson

Reporting inspector

Mr Dan Slade

Compliance team inspector (Deputy head, ISA school)