



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

CATERHAM SCHOOL

**BOARDING WELFARE
INTERMEDIATE INSPECTION**

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

Caterham School

Full Name of School	Caterham School
DfE Number	936/6538
Registered Charity Number	1109508
Address	Caterham School Harestone Valley Caterham Surrey CR3 6YA
Telephone Number	01883 343028
Fax Number	01883 335083
Email Address	enquiries@caterhamschool.co.uk
Head	Mr Julian Thomas
Chair of Governors	Mr Jonathan Bloomer
Age Range	11 to 19
Total Number of Pupils	870
Gender of Pupils	Mixed (476 boys; 394 girls)
Numbers by Age	11-19: 870
Number of Day Pupils	Total: 703
Number of Boarders	Total: 167
	Full: 167
Inspection dates	23 April 2013 to 25 April 2013

PREFACE

This inspection report follows the *ISI schedule* for intermediate inspections, focusing primarily on compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (NMS). The inspection occurs over a period of two and a half continuous days in the school.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools belonging to the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Associations and reporting on compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended. From September 2011 the inspection of boarding welfare forms part of the inspection process. This inspection focuses on the school's compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the recommendations set out in the most recent statutory boarding inspection. Boarding inspections were previously carried out by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), Children's Services and Skills. The relevant Ofsted report refers to an inspection in June 2009 and can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Ofsted monitors the work of independent inspectorates, including a sample of inspections, and you can find the latest evaluation of the work of ISI on the Ofsted website.

The inspection of the school is from an educational perspective and provides limited inspection of other aspects, although inspectors comment on any significant hazards or problems they encounter which have an adverse impact on children. The inspection does not include:

- (i) an exhaustive health and safety audit
- (ii) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features
- (iii) an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures
- (iv) an in-depth investigation of the school's compliance with employment law.

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 in the published report but will have been considered by the team in reaching their judgement.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors conducted formal interviews with boarders, held discussions with senior members of staff and with the chair of governors, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period and attended registration sessions. Inspectors visited each of the boarding houses and the facilities for sick or injured pupils. The responses of parents and boarding pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Peter Jones	Reporting Inspector
Mr Roger Leake	Team Inspector for Boarding (Headmaster, ISA school)
Mrs Sarah Godfrey	Team Inspector for Boarding (Director of Pastoral Care, HMC school)

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1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

- 1.1 Caterham School is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school, founded in 1811 for the education of the sons of Congregational Ministers. It continues to offer bursaries to the sons and daughters of United Reform Church ministers, but welcomes pupils from all faiths and none. It is an Associate Member of the United Church Schools Trust (UCST), although the school's governance and management is entirely independent from the trust. The school is set in 80 acres of the Harestone Valley in Surrey. Most of the sports facilities are on-site, but the school also owns 20 acres of playing fields a short walk away.
- 1.2 The school aims to foster an environment in which pupils are happy, secure, confident and valued, and in which they achieve their academic potential, follow a wide-ranging and enriching curriculum and co-curriculum, and experience independent thinking and lifelong learning through innovative and inspiring educational practice. The school is committed to high standards in pastoral care, and aims to promote strong spiritual and moral values, self-discipline, responsibility, and respect for others and the environment
- 1.3 There are 870 pupils on roll aged from 11 to 19, 476 boys and 394 girls, of whom 703 are day pupils. There are 291 pupils in the sixth form. There are 106 male and 61 female boarders who are accommodated in three houses, one for younger boys, one for older boys and another for girls, separated into junior and senior areas.
- 1.4 Three pupils have statements of special educational needs, 70 pupils receive support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and 63 are given help with English as an additional language (EAL).
- 1.5 Pupils come primarily from professional and business families. Boarders are from various parts of Britain, Eastern European countries and, substantially, from East Asia.
- 1.6 National Curriculum (NC) nomenclature is used throughout this report to refer to year groups in the school. The year group nomenclature used by the school and its National Curriculum equivalence are shown in the following table.

School	NC name
First Year	Year 7
Second Year	Year 8
Third Year	Year 9
Fourth Year	Year 10
Fifth Year	Year 11
Lower Sixth	Year 12
Upper Sixth	Year 13

2. SUMMARY

(i) Compliance with regulatory requirements

2.1 The school meets all the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2011.

(ii) Recommendations for further improvement

2.2 The school is advised to make the following improvements.

1. Further enhance safety by continuing to negotiate with the relevant authorities the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the public road which intersects the school buildings.
2. Complete the process of ensuring that all shared rooms house no more than four pupils.

(iii) Progress since the previous inspection

2.3 The previous boarding welfare inspection was undertaken by Ofsted in June 2009. The school has fully implemented the recommendations from that inspection to ensure that medication is securely stored at all times, and to provide safeguarding training for all staff as part of their induction.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS

3.(a) Boarding provision and care

- 3.1 The school meets all of the NMS under this section.
- 3.2 New boarders benefit from a full induction programme when they join the school, which enables them to become familiar with their houses and school routines. This is supplemented by informative handbooks for both pupils and parents or guardians. Boarders have a range of adults they can approach, particularly their matrons and the health centre nurse, if they require guidance or support. In addition the school publishes details of an external counsellor, with whom boarders may make direct contact in order to discuss a personal problem. Various helplines including details of the Children's Right's Director are clearly displayed on notice boards. [NMS 2]
- 3.3 The school has a suitable range of health care policies and appropriate facilities to support the provision of a comprehensive medical service for boarders, who are unwell. Inspectors found no evidence to support the view expressed by some boarders that they were not well looked after if they felt ill. The health centre is staffed by qualified nurses, and boarders also have access to local specialist medical services as required. Medication is stored safely and medical records, including logs of dispensed medicines, are maintained appropriately, meeting the recommendation of the previous boarding welfare inspection. Boarders are allowed to self-medicate following an assessment by the nurse. Medical confidentiality and the rights of boarders as patients are appropriately respected. [NMS 3]
- 3.4 Boarders have access to telephones and computers in the boarding houses as well as their own mobile 'phones, enabling them to contact parents or guardians. The school implements proportionate and effective policies to monitor unsafe use of electronic communications. [NMS 4]
- 3.5 Boarders enjoy clean, warm, comfortable and well-furnished accommodation. A number of older pupils are accommodated in single rooms, some of which have en-suite facilities. Although younger pupils are happy to share rooms, the school is in the final stages of ensuring that all shared rooms house no more than four pupils. They are able to personalise their rooms and have adequate space for study. Toilet and washing facilities are sufficient in number and provide appropriate privacy; boarders also appreciate the provision of common rooms and kitchens within the boarding houses. Provision is made for access for boarders with restricted mobility when necessary. Effective security systems ensure that boarding accommodation is protected from access by unauthorised persons. The CCTV systems are sited so that they do not intrude on boarders' privacy. [NMS 5]
- 3.6 The food is sufficient in quantity and quality and meets the needs of all boarders, including those with special dietary requirements. Boarders' opinions on food are represented on a weekly food committee and various changes have been made in response to their views. Facilities for the preparation of food are clean and hygienic, including the house kitchens where boarders have suitable access to drinking water and can prepare snacks. Inspectors did not find evidence to support the negative view of food and the availability of snacks indicated by a significant number of pupils in the pre-inspection questionnaire. [NMS 8]
- 3.7 The laundry service for boarders is satisfactory and boarders can access clean clothing or bedding as required. Boarders can purchase personal and stationery

items in the school shop or may visit the local town. Boarders have a lockable drawer in their rooms and are encouraged to take responsibility for their possessions. Valuables may also be stored securely by the school and records are kept of items placed in the boarding house safes. [NMS 9]

- 3.8 Boarders participate in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, and they also enjoy the social events and trips organised at the weekends. They can access safe recreational areas and they have space to be alone if they wish. The provision of newspapers, television and the internet in the boarding houses enables boarders to keep in touch with the world outside school. [NMS 10]

3.(b) Arrangements for welfare and safeguarding

- 3.9 The school meets all of the NMS under this section.
- 3.10 A written policy designed to ensure that the school complies with health and safety laws is effectively implemented. Premises, accommodation and facilities are well maintained to ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils. A public road crossing used regularly by pupils to move from one part of the school to another is well managed and suitably signed, and the school is negotiating the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing to further enhance safety. [NMS 6]
- 3.11 Suitable precautions are in place to minimise fire hazards. Regular fire drills, including in boarding time, take place and are recorded appropriately. [NMS 7]
- 3.12 Safeguarding arrangements have regard to regulatory guidance, promote the welfare of boarders and include secure links with the local safeguarding authority. Safeguarding training is provided for all staff and as part of induction, meeting the recommendation of the previous boarding welfare inspection. [NMS 11]
- 3.13 The school is effective in promoting good behaviour and relationships. Written policies promote good behaviour and include effective measures to combat bullying. In their responses to the inspection questionnaire and in interviews boarders said that they feel safe in their boarding houses. They report that any poor behaviour is dealt with quickly and effectively. Policies comply with legislation and guidance and staff and pupils are aware of the systems of rewards and sanctions. [NMS 12]
- 3.14 The school operates safe recruitment procedures in line with regulatory requirements and keeps a suitable single central register of appointments. The school has well organised systems to ensure that visitors to boarding accommodation are properly supervised. There are regular checks on the suitability of arrangements for the appointment of guardians. [NMS 14]

3.(c) Leadership and management of the boarding provision

- 3.15 The school meets all of the NMS under this section.
- 3.16 The school publishes a clear statement of boarding principles and practice to parents and pupils on the school website and in other information in published form, and this is implemented effectively in practice. [NMS 1]
- 3.17 The leadership of boarding is clear and managed effectively with suitable links between academic and house staff, many serving in both roles. Boarders reported in the pupil questionnaires and interviews that they are well-supported by these arrangements. Boarding staff participate in specific training related to boarding and

- have considerable experience of boarding. All specified records have been kept as required and are suitably monitored by the head of boarding. [NMS 13]
- 3.18 All staff working in boarding have full job descriptions and receive appropriate induction into their roles. Boarding staff are appraised annually on their performance and have access to relevant professional development. The roles of spouses and other members of staff households are made clear in the documentation supplied to them. There is a suitable number supervisory staff at all times in the boarding day. There are clear plans which are suitably implemented for supervision for boarders at all times. Boarders sign out to indicate their destination in a satisfactory manner. There is a clear policy that is followed by staff in the event of any boarder going missing. There is at least one adult member of staff sleeping in the boarding house overnight with responsibility for boarders. There is an appropriate system of contacting a member of staff in each house at night through the use of mobile phone and internal bell system to summon staff. Suitable separate accommodation exists for residential staff in the school. Clear rules exist about contacts between staff and pupils in staff accommodation exist and are followed. [NMS 15]
- 3.19 The school operates in a non-discriminatory manner towards boarders of different races, religions, special educational needs, sexual orientation and gender reassignment, including sporting and academic achievement. [NMS 16]
- 3.20 The school seeks boarders' views by a number of surveys, committees and consultation groups. [NMS 17]
- 3.21 There is a suitable complaints policy that is followed by the school. The school deals appropriately with any concerns raised by parents. [NMS 18]
- 3.22 A system of induction selection and training has been established to ensure prefects are able to fully undertake the duties and roles assigned to them and supervision of the prefects is effective. [NMS 19]
- 3.23 There are no pupils in lodgings. [NMS 20]