

Material change inspection report

12 May 2025

Caterham School

Harestone Valley Road

Caterham

Surrey

CR3 6YA

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 its registration to increase the total number of pupils from 1030 to 1050 and accommodate four additional boarding pupils.

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 (b), 8(a) and (b), 11, 12, 14, 16(a) and (b); NMS 2, 5, 6, 8, 9,10 and 20

1. Leaders prioritise the promotion of the pupils' wellbeing. They ensure that safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively throughout the school. Those responsible for safeguarding hold positions within the school's senior leadership team. Safeguarding leaders have been appropriately trained, are suitably knowledgeable and co-ordinate their work effectively. They ensure that all staff receive appropriate training, including at induction, and provide them with regular safeguarding updates.
2. Staff have an effective understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They know how to report concerns regarding pupils in their care and act promptly when required. Leaders maintain an effective partnership with the local authority, children's services and other agencies. Referrals to external agencies are made in a timely and appropriate manner. Leaders monitor pupils' attendance and take suitable action if any pupil's attendance level is unsatisfactory. Leaders inform the local authority when pupils join or leave the school at non-standard transition times.
3. Governors are appropriately trained and provide effective oversight of the school's safeguarding procedures. The governor responsible for safeguarding visits the school each term to meet with staff and pupils and check safeguarding documentation, including the single central record of appointments and personnel files. The governing body formally reviews policy implementation at its termly meetings. Governors review the safeguarding policy each year to ensure it is updated in accordance with statutory guidance.
4. Leaders ensure there is appropriate filtering and monitoring of the school's internet. They receive daily reports regarding its use and investigate any alerts promptly. Pupils are taught how to stay safe online. They know they can raise concerns with trusted adults, including counsellors and members of the pastoral team, who act promptly to provide appropriate support. Pupils can also raise concerns anonymously using the school's online reporting system.
5. Leaders provide boarders with suitable laundry arrangements and adequate storage for their possessions. Leaders ensure appropriate arrangements for mealtimes and provide boarders with access to suitable facilities to make snacks, and to drinking water.
6. The proprietor ensures that the school complies with the relevant health and safety laws by drawing up a suitable health and safety policy and implementing it effectively. Appropriate checks are conducted on a regular basis and systematically recorded, including in the boarding houses.
7. The school has a suitable fire safety policy and staff receive fire safety training. A fire risk assessment of the premises has been undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional. Leaders ensure any recommendations are followed up promptly. Fire safety equipment is properly maintained. Termly

fire drills are carried out and recorded, including in the boarding houses. As a result, staff and pupils understand how to respond in an emergency.

8. Pupils, including boarders, are appropriately supervised through the effective deployment of staff. There are sufficient adults available in boarding during the evenings and boarders have access to a member of staff if needed during the night.
9. Leaders have drawn up an appropriate risk assessment policy and ensure it is implemented effectively. There is suitable training for staff responsible for completing risk assessments. Staff provide appropriate risk assessments, including for individual pupils to support their welfare. Leaders have risk assessed the proposed increase in pupil numbers effectively.
10. The school is likely to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR Paragraphs 18(1), 18(2), 18(3), 18(4), 20(1), 20(4), 20(5), 20(6), 21(1)-21(7); NMS 19.

11. Leaders provide a suitable policy which addresses the required recruitment checks and procedures and ensure that it is implemented effectively. All required pre-employment checks are completed before any adult begins work at school. An appropriate single central record of appointments is accurately maintained.
12. Leaders ensure that the required checks and agreements are completed for anyone over the age of 16 who is living on the school site who is neither an employee nor a pupil at the school.
13. 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(1)-30; NMS 4 and 7.

14. Leaders ensure that suitable toilet, changing and showering facilities and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided, including sleeping accommodation for boarders.
15. Boarders' sleeping accommodation and areas for socialising are suitable and well maintained. Boarders have access, as appropriate, to local medical, dental and optometric services and to the relevant health agencies.
16. Acoustics, lighting and water provision are appropriate. Pupils benefit from suitable outdoor space for physical education and play. The premises and accommodation are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety requirements.
17. Leaders have suitable plans to reorganise boarding accommodation to facilitate the proposed increase in boarding numbers.
18. 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)

19. Leaders publish particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding, which meet current statutory requirements, on the school's website.
20. 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 paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c).

21. The proprietor ensures that leaders, including those with specific responsibility for safeguarding and boarding, demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.
22. Leaders have carefully considered the expansion of the school to accommodate the increased number of pupils and additional boarding provision, to ensure the school continues to promote the wellbeing of all pupils.
23. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Caterham School
Department for Education number	936/6538
Registered charity number	1109508
Address	Caterham School Harestone Valley Road Caterham Surrey CR3 6YA
Phone number	01883 343028
Email address	enquiries@caterhamschool.co.uk
Website	http://www.caterhamschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Caterham School Ltd
Chair	Ms Monisha Shah
Headteacher	Mr Ceri Jones
Age range	10 to 19
Number of pupils	1008
Number of boarding pupils	166
Date of previous inspection	21 to 23 November 2023

Information about the school

25. Caterham School is a co-educational day and boarding school located in Caterham, Surrey. It is part of the Caterham family of schools, with a preparatory school situated on the same site. The two schools share some facilities. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors.
26. There are three boarding houses. A house for girls in Years 9 to 13 is located in the school grounds, a short distance from the main building. Two houses for boys, one for those in Years 9 and 10 and one for those in Years 11 to 13, are located in the main building. Boarders are full-time, weekly or half-weekly boarders.
27. The school has identified 268 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. None of the pupils in the school has an education, health and care plan.
28. The school has identified 185 pupils for whom English is an additional language.
29. The school states that its aims are to provide an environment in which all pupils are challenged to be the best they can be and ensure pastoral care and wellbeing underpin academic, co-curricular and sporting excellence. It seeks to provide an education for life, blending the best of tradition with the opportunities provided by modern technology and developing the whole child. It aims to ensure that pupils understand their responsibility towards others and are well equipped to engage positively with a rapidly changing world as accomplished problem-solvers and innovators. The school aims to develop pupils who are confident in their ability to lead and with a clear appreciation of and respect for the views and potential of other.

Purpose of the material change inspection

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 and National Minimum Standards for boarding schools if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection date

12 May 2025

30. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.

31. 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 the premises and accommodation
- discussions with the chair of governors and another member of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils, including boarders
- visits to the boarding houses accompanied by staff.

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

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