ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Material change inspection report

14 October 2026

Octavia House Schools, London

214b Kennington Road

London

SE11 6AU

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 submitted a material change request to increase capacity from 125 to 210 pupils and to use new additional premises at Belthorn Crescent, Weir Road, London, SW12 0NS.

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), 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16(a), 16(b)

1. Leaders prioritise the importance of safeguarding and ensure that the safeguarding policy and practice reflect current statutory guidance. The director of safeguarding and designated safeguarding quality and standards committee member support school leaders to foster a robust culture of vigilance and care.
2. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibilities hold up-to-date knowledge and have the necessary training for their roles, including regarding safer recruitment. They ensure staff receive relevant training at induction and through annual training and regular updates, such as online quizzes and daily briefings. As a result, staff remain alert to signs of concern in pupils and are acutely aware of the specific vulnerabilities faced by pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Training covers the 'Prevent' duty and the risks of radicalisation and extremism. Staff understand the procedures for reporting any concerns or allegations about adults working in the school.
3. The safeguarding team takes swift and suitable action when concerns arise about pupils. They liaise effectively with external agencies, including multiple local authorities and the police. They regularly seek advice and support from the local authority designated officer (LADO) and respond appropriately to any concerns or allegations regarding adults. This collaborative approach ensures decisions are well informed and consistently prioritise pupils' wellbeing. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding understand the thresholds for referral to local authorities, including for pupils who experience or have experienced school avoidance. They maintain secure, detailed, and accurate safeguarding records which include the school's actions and the rationale behind decisions made in response to safeguarding concerns.
4. Pupils know how to seek support if they have a concern and can identify trusted adults they can approach. Staff enable pupils to understand why the school is a mobile phone-free environment. As part of the curriculum, pupils receive education on various aspects of safety, including online safety. The school uses effective internet filtering and monitoring systems, which leaders review regularly.
5. The safeguarding team have the capacity to cater for the proposed maximum number of pupils, including the additional pupils to be provided for at the new additional premises.
6. The school complies with relevant health and safety laws by implementing a suitable health and safety policy. The school consistently and rigorously implements and monitors maintenance and health and safety checks, including at the new additional premises. Leaders meticulously maintain detailed records of all health and safety checks and maintenance completed and due. All hazardous materials, including cleaning products, are stored securely.

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7. The school implements its fire safety policy rigorously. Staff and pupils demonstrate a clear understanding of fire procedures, including at the additional site, supported by effective training. Leaders have responded promptly to recommendations from the recent fire risk assessment at the additional premises, carried out by an appropriately qualified professional. Appropriate fire prevention and safety equipment is installed in the refurbished buildings. Leaders maintain comprehensive records of equipment checks and staff training.
8. Staff supervise pupils actively and attentively throughout the day. Positive relationships and a constant availability of staff give pupils the support that they need. Staff notice subtle signs that indicate a pupil may be suffering or unhappy and provide timely support, and respond as needed. Leaders plan to ensure the school employs sufficient staff to supervise the proposed maximum number of pupils effectively, including in the new additional premises, once the proposed material change takes place.
9. Leaders adopt a comprehensive and effective approach to the management of risk. This includes detailed assessments of risks, including those related to the new additional site and proposed increase in the maximum number of pupils. Staff implement comprehensive risk assessments to ensure that identified risks have suitable control measures in place. Leaders clearly understand contextual safeguarding risks and proactively mitigate them through the curriculum, such as in personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) lessons, weekly therapy sessions, and visits from external specialists who discuss topics such as gang culture and community safety. Each pupil has an individual risk assessment to support their needs, which staff regularly update. Leaders review risk assessments regularly to ensure their continued suitability.
10. 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 paragraphs 18, 19, 20, 21

11. The school's safer recruitment process is rigorous. All the necessary pre-employment checks are completed before adults commence working at the school and accurately recorded in the single central record of appointments (SCR). Staff files contain all the information required by current statutory guidance.
12. 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 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

13. Leaders have carefully planned for the projected rise in the numbers of pupils. Work has been undertaken at the new additional premises to ensure rooms are well designed and appropriately equipped, including with suitable therapy rooms, a medical room, a science laboratory, and facilities for art and design and technology. The premises are effectively maintained and resourced to a suitable standard. The proposed increase in the maximum number of pupils can be suitably accommodated on the site.
14. Leaders provide pupils with suitable toilet, changing, and washing facilities, including at the new additional site. There are sufficient of these facilities to cater for the proposed maximum number of pupils.

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15. The premises, including the new additional accommodation, offer suitable spaces for play and physical education (PE). Staff use secure outdoor areas effectively to promote pupils' physical and emotional wellbeing.
16. Lighting is sufficient and suitable in all indoor and outdoor areas. Leaders have considered soundproofing in site adjustments, including through the provision of soundproof doors, to minimise noise disruption and support focused study.
17. Drinking water is easily accessible and clearly marked. Water throughout the site is controlled at appropriate temperatures. Regular checks of the premises include routine inspections of hot water systems, which minimise the risk of scalding.
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 meet the requirements for providing parents with information about the school's safeguarding arrangements. The school publishes an appropriate safeguarding policy on its 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 paragraph 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)

21. The leadership team demonstrates the requisite skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and actively promote pupils' wellbeing. The advisory body exercises robust oversight of school operations, ensuring ongoing compliance with all regulatory requirements, so that the school consistently meets the Standards. Collaboration between quality and standards committee members and school leaders fosters an ethos of accountability and supports a positive, purposeful school environment.
22. Leaders have revised and updated policies and procedures to ensure that the additional premises are likely to offer suitable provision for the additional pupils that they intend to cater for. They have undertaken a thorough, systematic evaluation of the proposed expansion of the school, with due consideration of the potential impact on existing pupils. This review encompassed factors including the adequacy and suitability of the additional premises, anticipated staffing requirements, and the therapeutic and safeguarding needs of pupils. Leaders have put suitable measures in place to mitigate any associated risks, such as planning to introduce new pupils gradually over an extended period. Preparations for the proposed material change are comprehensive and demonstrate effective planning.
23. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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School details

School	Octavia House Schools, London
Department for Education number	208/6001
Address	Octavia House Schools, London 214b Kennington Road London SE11 6AU
Phone number	020 3651 4396
Email address	hello@ohs.uk
Website	www.ohs.uk
Proprietor	Octavia House Schools Ltd.
Chair	Mrs Fiona Lupson
Headteacher	Ms Elysia Agius
Age range	5 to 17
Number of pupils	125
Date of previous inspection	30 September to 2 October 2025

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Information about the school

24. Octavia House Schools, London are a group of independent co-educational special day schools specialising in provision for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. The group of schools is owned and overseen by a proprietorial body with the support of an advisory body, who are members of the quality and standards committee. The chair of quality and standards committee and headteacher took up their current positions in January 2026.
25. The school consists of three sites situated in London. The site located on Kennington Rd, SE11 6AU, caters for pupils in Years 10 and 11. The site on South Lambeth Road, SW8 2TJ, caters for pupils in Years 7 to 9. The site, on Vauxhall St, SE11 5LG, caters for pupils in Years 1 to 7.
26. The school has identified all pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. All pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
27. The school has identified four pupils for whom English is an additional language.
28. The school states that its aims are to provide specialist therapeutic education for pupils who have experienced trauma or adverse childhood experiences. A key aim is to re-engage pupils by providing a curriculum that integrates academic progress with emotional and behavioural support. Leaders strive to provide a safe, nurturing environment with a focus on inclusion and preparing pupils for future education and employment.

Purpose of the material change inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the Department for Education 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.

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Inspection details

Inspection dates	14 October 2026

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

30. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a tour of the new additional school site to evaluate its suitability
- discussions with a member of the proprietorial body
- 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**.

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