



**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**Material Change Inspection Report**

**Nottingham High School**

**June 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	Nottingham High School			
<b>DfE number</b>	892/6004			
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1104251			
<b>Address</b>	Nottingham High School Waverley Mount Nottingham Nottinghamshire NG7 4ED			
<b>Telephone number</b>	0115 978 6056			
<b>Email address</b>	info@nottinghamhigh.co.uk			
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Kevin Fear			
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mr Steven Banks			
<b>Proprietor</b>	Nottingham High School			
<b>Age range</b>	4 to 18			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	1164			
	<b>Infants</b>	124	<b>Juniors</b>	198
	<b>Seniors</b>	582	<b>Sixth Form</b>	260
<b>Date of inspection</b>	26 June 2023			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Nottingham High School, including its associated infant and junior school, is an independent co-educational day school in the city of Nottingham. The school is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee with a board of governors. The school comprises four sections: an infant school, including an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting, for pupils aged 4 to 7; a junior school for 7 to 11-year-old pupils; a senior school for pupils aged 11 to 16; and a sixth form. The school has identified 186 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 124 pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in October 2019.

### Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an announced material change inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to increase its total capacity from 1180 to 1280 pupils from September 2023. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework.

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraphs 11 (health and safety) and 12 (fire safety)	<b>Met</b>
Part 3, paragraphs 14 (supervision of pupils) and 16 (risk assessment)	<b>Met</b>
Part 4, paragraphs 18 to 21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	<b>Met</b>
Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29 (premises and accommodation)	<b>Met</b>
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	<b>Met</b>

## 2. Inspection findings

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

#### Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

#### Safeguarding implementation

- 2.2 The school meets the standard.
- 2.3 Safeguarding procedures are suitably implemented in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022*, including in the EYFS. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and her deputies work effectively to promote the wellbeing of pupils of all ages, including those with SEND. In discussions, both junior and senior school pupils confirmed that they can raise any concerns freely and that, if they do so, they receive a timely and appropriate response. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts swiftly to respond to any concerns it receives about pupils and that it refers concerns appropriately to local agencies. Any incidences of child-on-child abuse have received an appropriate response. No recent sexual or racist incidents have met the threshold for referral to external agencies but the school is aware of its duty to refer any harmful sexual or racist behaviour. Senior safeguarding leads confirmed that they would do so. Pupils receive suitable advice about online safety and the school has effective systems in place to filter and monitor the internet.
- 2.4 Staff confirm that they are regularly trained in safeguarding and receive updates from the DSL as and when necessary. They have recently been trained in how to communicate low-level concerns and confirmed in discussion that they use the low-level concerns procedure readily. A suitable low-level concerns log is kept. New staff confirmed that they undergo induction training and the contents meet the requirements of KCSIE. Scrutiny of staff training records for safeguarding showed that they are suitable. Any absentees are quickly followed up and extra sessions provided. Staff complete training in the risks associated with terrorism and extremism annually. They understand how to report any allegations about adults who work with children, should it be necessary, and confirmed that they would not hesitate to do so. The head seeks advice from the local authority when necessary and refers any allegations about adults in the school promptly and appropriately.
- 2.5 The DSL and DDSLs have up-to-date advanced level training; governors are trained in safeguarding and the safeguarding governor liaises closely and effectively with the DSL and her team. Scrutiny of the annual safeguarding review confirms that governors receive suitable summaries of all safeguarding matters from senior leaders. This includes any trends and patterns identified. Minutes show that they interrogate this information with suitable care, have safeguarding as a standing item on all meeting agendas, and carry out an effective annual review of the safeguarding policy. Discussions with the chair of governors, the head and the DSL confirmed that the school has carefully considered arrangements for the ongoing safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils as numbers increase.
- 2.6 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils – health and safety and fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 11 and 12]

- 2.7 The school meets the standards.

- 2.8 There is a suitable health and safety policy which is effectively implemented. Systematic procedures promote the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors and these are regularly reviewed by governors. An appropriate fire safety policy is implemented and fire risk assessments have been undertaken. Any recommended actions have been addressed appropriately. Procedures for emergency evacuation are implemented effectively; regular fire drills are held and suitably recorded; fire signage is effective and regular checks are carried out of all fire infrastructure. Both staff and pupils receive suitable training in fire evacuations.
- 2.9 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils and risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 14 and 16]**

- 2.10 The school meets the standards.
- 2.11 Senior leaders ensure that pupils are always under appropriate supervision while attending school. There are sufficient staff already in place to maintain suitable supervision of pupils once the proposed increase in numbers occurs, including appropriate ratios of staff to children within the EYFS. The school has an appropriate risk assessment policy. This sets out a suitable approach to the management of risk, including the actions taken to reduce risks which are identified. Risk assessments operate effectively for all offsite visits; for areas of the school such as design and technology and science laboratories; and for outside areas. These are effectively reviewed and actions identified as necessary are implemented. Risks associated with those pupils who are vulnerable or have particular needs are assessed effectively and suitable measures are implemented to mitigate risks identified.
- 2.12 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]**

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school implements a suitable recruitment policy effectively. This has due regard to the procedures required by KCSIE. It makes appropriate and timely checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors and a register is kept as required. The information on the register reflects documentation seen in staff files.
- 2.15 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### **Premises and accommodation – [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23 to 29]**

- 2.16 A tour of the school premises demonstrated that the current sites provide appropriate provision for an increase in total capacity from 1180 to 1280 pupils. Existing classrooms in the junior and senior schools have capacity for additional pupils. In the infant school, a refurbished area provides sufficient and suitable space for the proposed third class of Reception children. Dining facilities are sufficient for the increase in capacity and there are sufficient toilet, washing facilities and changing accommodation, segregated by gender where appropriate, for the proposed increase. Appropriate medical facilities are provided. Throughout the school furnishings and resources are of suitable quality and the buildings and outdoor areas are well maintained and monitored to ensure pupil safety. Acoustics promote

effective learning and all areas are appropriately lit. Effective provision is in place to ensure access to drinking water and there is sufficient space for outdoor activities and for recreation.

- 2.17 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### **Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]**

- 2.18 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.

### **Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]**

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 Senior leaders and managers demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the other standards are met consistently and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted. Proprietors and senior leaders have considered with suitable care what measures are necessary to increase the capacity of the school from 1180 to 1280 pupils. The school is suitably prepared for the proposed material change.
- 2.21 The school is likely to continue to meet the requirements with an increase in pupil numbers from 1180 to 1280.

### **3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection**

#### **Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal to increase its registered capacity from 1180 to 1280 be approved. The school has effectively considered and planned for the accommodation and safeguarding needs of the additional pupils.

## **4. Summary of evidence**

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the chair of governors. She visited different areas of the school and talked with groups of pupils. She scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

### **Inspectors**

Mrs Kate McCarey

Reporting inspector