

Material change inspection report

25 April 2025

Brighton College Prep School

Walpole Lodge

Walpole Road

Brighton

BN2 0EU

Inspection outcome

The school has requested a material change, to change its main registered address and to decrease its overall capacity from 555 to 440 pupils as a result of reducing the age range of pupils from 3 to 13 to 3 to 12 years

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), 11, 12, 16(a) and (b)

1. Arrangements to safeguard pupils are robust. Appropriate safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively. Staff members, including safeguarding leaders, receive suitable training. Staff are regularly updated with important information to ensure they are well informed about safeguarding practices. Leaders are knowledgeable about their roles and collaborate effectively with external agencies, including the local authority designated officer.
2. Governors are appropriately trained and actively oversee the school's safeguarding procedures to ensure that arrangements are implemented effectively. Each term, a governor reviews the implementation of policies alongside the safeguarding leadership team. This includes examining attendance levels, checking the single central record of employment and scrutinising personnel files.
3. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and are well informed about pupils' needs. Staff know how to report safeguarding concerns and take prompt and effective action when necessary.
4. Pupils identify a range of adults to whom they can talk if they are worried or have any concerns and know that prompt action will be taken to support them. Pupils have various ways to report concerns, including through online systems and worry boxes for younger pupils. Pupils are supported well in learning how to keep themselves safe, including online. Appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place, and school leaders regularly assess the effectiveness of these systems in accordance with statutory guidance.
5. Leaders recognise that some pupils may have questions about the school's proposed relocation. To address this, leaders have arranged guided visits in advance of the move to ease any worries pupils may have. Leaders have also considered additional risks associated with the change of premises, such as the arrangements for pupil drop-off and collection, and have established suitable plans to ensure that safety arrangements remain effective.
6. The school complies with relevant health and safety laws by creating and effectively implementing a suitable health and safety policy. Meticulous records are maintained. Maintenance and health and safety checks are conducted systematically and appropriately.
7. A comprehensive fire risk policy is in place. An appropriately qualified individual conducts fire risk assessments of the premises, and leaders ensure that recommendations are implemented promptly. Regular fire drills are carried out and documented clearly. Staff induction includes fire safety training, and there is regular refresher training for all staff. Leaders have begun training staff in preparation for changes to fire evacuation procedures and have well-considered plans for inducting pupils on health and safety matters at the new location. This includes training pupils on how to evacuate the different buildings safely.

8. Leaders are diligent in identifying, assessing and managing risk. They have implemented a comprehensive risk assessment policy. Risk assessments are detailed and regularly reviewed. Leaders ensure that staff who are responsible for writing and reviewing risk assessments are well trained and take appropriate action to reduce and manage risks. Leaders have carefully assessed the risks associated with moving to different premises. Leaders are aware of the need to remain alert to identifying and assessing any new risks that may arise.
9. 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 - 29

10. Leaders ensure that suitable toilet, changing and shower facilities are provided on both the current premises and those to be used next year. High-quality accommodation is available for pupils' medical and therapy needs.
11. The physical education and play areas are spacious and well maintained. Leaders ensure regular health and safety checks for these areas take place. Leaders have carefully considered the impact of the proposed changes on the space available for pupils and have made several positive changes to the accommodation at the proposed location. This includes refurbishing a room to be used by Years 5 and 6 as a common room and reorganising the dining hall to allow more efficient lunch service for pupils. The accommodation and premises are maintained to a very high standard.
12. Lighting in all indoor and outdoor spaces is sufficient. Sound insulation between teaching rooms is effective. Drinking water is readily available and is suitably identified. The hot water systems are checked regularly and regulated to prevent scalding.
13. Assessments and plans carried out by leaders indicate that facilities, once completed, will enhance accommodation and continue to meet pupils needs.
14. 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)

15. The information regarding the arrangements for safeguarding pupils, which meet statutory requirements, are published on the school's website.
16. 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), 34(1)(c), 34(2)

17. Governors and school leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the Standards are met and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.
18. Leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of pupils' needs. They have proactively planned for the school's relocation to one site by carefully identifying and mitigating potential risks. They have ensured that the existing premises will meet the needs of current pupils and that the planned new facilities will be suitable for Nursery to Year 6. By considering an extensive range of factors, including appropriate staffing levels, leaders have addressed the risks linked to these changes and established

procedures to prioritise the wellbeing of pupils and ensure that their needs continue to be consistently met.

19. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Brighton College Prep School
Department for Education number	846/6015
Registered charity number	307061
Address	Brighton College Prep School Walpole Lodge Walpole Road Brighton East Sussex BN2 0EU
Phone number	01273 704210
Email address	prepoffice@brightoncollege.net
Website	www.brightoncollege.org.uk
Proprietor	Brighton College
Chair	The Rt. Hon. Lord Maude of Horsham
Headteacher	Mr Ant Falkus
Age range	3 to 13
Number of pupils	492
Date of previous inspection	15 to 17 October 2024

Information about the school

20. Brighton College Prep School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils aged from three to thirteen years. The school occupies two sites adjacent to Brighton College, the pre-prep for pupils from Nursery to Year 3 and the prep school for pupils from Year 4 to Year 8. The school is a registered charity overseen by a board of governors who are trustees. A prep school committee, which includes members of the main governing body, oversees the administration of the school.
21. The early years setting comprises two Nursery classes and two Reception classes located on the purpose-built pre-prep site.
22. The school has identified 47 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
23. English is an additional language for 35 pupils.
24. The school states its aims are to develop pupils with a lifelong attitude of kindness, who live with integrity and who understand how to enhance their own wellbeing and that of others; to inspire a love of learning through an innovative and challenging curriculum which encourages curiosity and confidence; to promote an appreciation of spiritual development and celebrating diversity; and to understand the importance of contributing positively to local and global communities.

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 if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection date

25 April 2025

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

26. 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 assess the standard of the premises and accommodation
- discussions with the chair of governors and members of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils.

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Independent Schools Inspectorate

CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

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