



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Material Change Inspection Report

Nottingham Girls' High School GDST

November 2022

School's details

School	Nottingham Girls' High School GDST			
DfE number	892/6009			
Registered charity number	306983			
Address	Nottingham Girls' High School GDST 9 Arboretum Street Nottingham Nottinghamshire NG1 4JB			
Telephone number	0115 9417663			
Email address	enquiries@not.gdst.net			
Head	Mrs Julie Keller			
Proprietor	The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST)			
Age range	3 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	696			
	EYFS	31	Juniors	159
	Seniors	376	Sixth Form	130
Date of inspection	18 November 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Nottingham Girls' High School GDST is an independent day school for female pupils situated just north of the centre of Nottingham. It is overseen by the GDST, supported by a local advisory board. The school has 74 pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), of whom two have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. There are 91 pupils who speak English as an additional language. The previous inspection was a focused compliance inspection combined with an educational quality inspection which took place on 3 to 5 December 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 the age range of pupils from 3 to 18 to 3 to 19 years, to cover instances where pupils need to repeat a year or to cover overseas pupils whose years of study do not match those in England. 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 1, paragraph 2 (curriculum)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 3 (teaching)	Met
Part 1, paragraph 4 (framework for pupils' performance)	Met
Part 2, paragraph 5 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (quality of leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Quality of education provided – curriculum [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 2]

- 2.1 The school meets the standard.
- 2.2 The school provides an appropriate curriculum that covers the required areas of education. It offers a suitably broad range of subjects and, for those of above compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their needs. It is designed to enable pupils to acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. The curriculum includes a suitable programme of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and relationships and sex education (RSE) that is suitably designed to meet the needs of pupils of different ages, including the oldest. The curriculum takes into account the ages and aptitudes of pupils in all year groups, including the sixth form. Senior and sixth form pupils are provided with careers guidance appropriate to their age. The current curriculum provision is suitable for any pupils aged 19.

Quality of education provided – teaching [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 3]

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The school provides suitable teaching that enables the pupils to develop their knowledge and skills and make good progress. It takes into account the pupils' needs, attitudes and prior attainment effectively. Pupils who spoke to the inspector reported that teaching is engaging and makes effective use of practical activities. They said that teaching is inclusive. Leaders monitor the effectiveness of teaching to ensure its suitability. The school provides appropriate teaching, including for any pupils who are likely to reach the age of 19 during their studies.

Quality of education provided – framework for pupils' performance [ISSR Part 1, paragraph 4]

- 2.5 The school meets the standard.
- 2.6 The school monitors pupils' progress regularly and effectively. It assesses the quality of pupils' attainment through performance in extended project qualifications, GCSE and A-level examinations as well as internal tests. The framework for pupils' performance is suitable for any pupils who are likely to reach the age of 19 during their studies.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils [ISSR Part 2, paragraph 5]

- 2.7 The school meets the standard.
- 2.8 The school actively and effectively promotes fundamental British values, including those of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Pupils who spoke to the inspector said that the school promotes appreciation of diversity and that pupils feel accepted for who they are. The school provides a suitable PSHE programme that is pitched effectively to meet the needs of pupils of different ages, including those in the final year of the sixth form. In addition, the school promotes positive values and attitudes through its programme of assemblies, teaching and messages from tutors. The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development effectively, including that of the oldest pupils.

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.9 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.10 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

- 2.11 The school meets the standard.
- 2.12 The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and a large team of deputies provide sufficient coverage for their role, including in the EYFS and the sixth form. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe and avoid risk, including when online and out of school. It maintains appropriate filtering and monitoring of the school's internet use and implements effective restrictions on the use of mobile phones and cameras, including in the EYFS.
- 2.13 The school encourages pupils to share any worries that they might have. Scrutiny of safeguarding records confirms that the school responds to any concerns appropriately. This includes those relating to child-on-child abuse, including sexual harassment. Records show that the school provides suitable support to pupils affected by any such concerns.
- 2.14 The school implements appropriate measures to respond to any allegations against staff, including those made at a low level. Safeguarding records confirm that the school acts in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures and liaises with safeguarding partners effectively. This includes by requesting and acting on advice from the LADO and other agencies where appropriate. The proprietor monitors the schools' safeguarding policy and practice effectively, including through an annual review.
- 2.15 Staff, including the DSL and deputy DSLs, are suitably trained, as are governors. Staff understand the expectations of the code of conduct. They also understand and implement their safeguarding responsibilities in accordance with the school's procedures. The school implements effective safer recruitment procedures. The school acts in the best interests of the child. In particular, the school has given effective and appropriate consideration to the safeguarding needs of pupils aged 18 and 19 years. It has also reviewed the impact on relationships within the pupil body of having pupils aged 19 in the school.

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

- 2.16 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]

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils. In particular, the proprietor and school leaders have taken effective steps to ensure that the school's provision remains suitable for any pupils who reach the age of 19 during their studies. This includes effective risk assessment of the proposed change in age range.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change inspection

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school's proposal, to increase the age range of pupils from 3 to 18 to 3 to 19 years to cover instances where pupils need to repeat a year or to cover overseas pupils whose study years do not match those in England, be approved.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspector held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with a representative of the proprietor. He talked with groups of pupils and scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.

Inspector

Mr Steven Popper

Reporting inspector