ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Progress monitoring inspection report

1 July 2026

Godstowe Preparatory School

Shrubbery Road

High Wycombe

HP13 6PR

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 meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a), 7(b), 8(a), 8(b); NMS 8.1, 8.2; EYFS 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.13, 3.18, 3.20

1. The school has put in place an appropriate policy for safeguarding, which includes suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the wellbeing and needs of pupils at the school, including boarders and children in the early years foundation stage (EYFS). The policy is effectively implemented.
2. Leaders have policies and procedures in place that set out clearly what is expected of all staff and how to identify and report low-level concerns in relation to staff behaviour. The staff code of conduct now includes guidance on low-level concerns as required by current statutory requirements. Leaders have put in place regular training for staff to ensure that practices are clear and applied effectively. There is now a detailed record of low-level concerns kept by leaders, which is appropriately managed and overseen by the safeguarding team and the safeguarding governor.
3. Leaders ensure that all required referrals to the local authority relating to concerns about staff conduct are carried out in a timely way so that these can be followed up appropriately. Leaders have suitable training to ensure that procedures are consistent.
4. Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe, including online, through the curriculum and wider discussions with staff. Leaders have put in place appropriate internet monitoring and filtering arrangements. These systems are checked regularly to ensure that they protect pupils effectively.
5. Leaders ensure that all necessary safer recruitment checks are carried out as required by current statutory guidance and that appropriate records are maintained.
6. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraphs 18(2)(c)(ii),(iii), 18(3), 21(3)(a)(i),(ii),(iii),(v),(vii), 21(3)(b); NMS 19

7. The school has in place appropriate safer recruitment policies and procedures, which are in line with statutory guidance. This includes checks on references, prohibition from teaching and medical fitness, where relevant. Since the last inspection, leaders have reviewed all the school's safer recruitment policies and procedures. All checks take place before a person starts work at the school.
8. The single central record of appointments (SCR) now includes appropriate dates for all the required checks, including verification of a candidate's identity and their right to work, barred list checks, and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates. Dates recorded in the SCR match those held in staff files. Leaders, including governors, provide effective oversight through their more regular monitoring and review of the recruitment procedures and maintenance of the SCR.
9. The school meets the Standards.

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Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

10. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents by publishing the safeguarding policy on the school's website.

11. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c); NMS 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5

12. Leaders demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills appropriate to their roles so that the Standards are now met. Leaders, including governors, have received additional training relating to statutory requirements, including those relating to boarding and the early years.

13. Leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the relevant Standards are consistently met. The school has successfully implemented its action plan.

14. Leaders monitor and provide oversight of safeguarding and safer recruitment procedures to ensure that these standards are met and that the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.

15. The school meets the Standards.

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School details

School	Godstowe Preparatory School
Department for Education number	825/6007
Registered charity number	528233
Address	Godstowe Preparatory School Shrubbery Road High Wycombe Buckinghamshire HP13 6PR
Phone number	01494 529273
Email address	headspa@godstowe.org
Website	www.godstowe.org
Proprietor	Alpha Schools Limited
Chair	Mr Ali Khan
Headteacher	Ms Kate Bailey
Age range	2 to 14
Number of pupils	222
Number of boarding pupils	45
Number of children in the early years	40
Date of previous inspection	13 to 15 January 2026

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Information about the school

16. Godstowe Preparatory School is an independent day and boarding school located in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. It caters for male and female pupils in the nursery and pre-prep, and for female pupils only from Years 3 to 8. Since the previous inspection the school has been bought by Alpha Schools Limited, whose directors provide governance of the school.
17. Female boarders aged 7 to 13 years are accommodated in two boarding houses on the main site.
18. There are 40 children in the early years comprising one Nursery class and one Reception class.
19. The school has identified 42 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A very small proportion of pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
20. The school has identified 12 pupils for whom English is an additional language.
21. The school states that its aims are to develop pupils who are happy, confident learners who share respectful relationships, which leads to a strong community. The school seeks to foster well-rounded and self-assured individuals who care for each other and are celebrated for their individuality.

Purpose of the progress monitoring inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. This inspection was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection which was carried out at the request of the Department for Education. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards, National Minimum Standards for boarding schools, Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection date	1 July 2026

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

23. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- discussions with the chair of governors and an additional member of the governing 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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CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

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