



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Report for a Material Change Visit

Dania School

May 2022

School's details

School	Dania Scandinavian School			
DfE number	206/6000			
Registered charity number	1153166			
Address	Curran House 3 Highbury Crescent LONDON N5 1RN			
Telephone number	07933 619674			
Email address	admin@daniaschool.com			
Headteacher	Ms Christina Bek Larsen.			
Chair of governors	Mr Peter Melbye			
Age range	2 to 11			
Number of pupils on roll	22			
	EYFS	14	Juniors	8
Date of visit	4 May 2022			

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Dania School is an independent, co-educational day school. The school is a registered charity and is overseen by a board of trustees. The school was founded by local families in Islington in 2013 and has pupils and teachers of both Scandinavian and non-Scandinavian backgrounds. The school has recently moved to new premises. The school follows the English national curriculum with particular emphasis on play, creativity, emotional and social interaction, and outdoor learning.
- 1.2 The school comprises an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting and a junior section. The previous inspection was a regulatory compliance inspection in January 2018.
- 1.3 The school has no pupils who require support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) none have an education, health, and care plan. Many pupils speak both English and Danish, 5 pupils have English as an additional language (EAL) and receive additional support.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.4 This was an announced material change visit at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to assess the school's proposal to move location and increase the pupil numbers to 80. The visit 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 visit	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 11 (health and safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 12 (fire safety)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 14 (supervision)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18-21 (suitability of staff)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23-30 (premises and accommodation)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

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

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.2 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

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021*, including in the EYFS. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is suitably trained including in inter-agency working and maintains regular liaison with local safeguarding children's services. Staff receive regular training and updates on changes to statutory guidance. They demonstrate a full understanding of their responsibilities, including with regard to reporting child-on-child abuse and the particular vulnerability of pupils with protected characteristics. They recognise the importance of early help, know how to report any concerns about pupils or other staff, and do so appropriately. New staff and governors complete a comprehensive induction process to ensure they understand their safeguarding responsibilities in line with local procedures. A suitable code of conduct for all staff is implemented effectively and includes advice on e-safety and the appropriate use of social media. During interview, staff showed effective understanding of the code and reported that they feel confident in using the school's whistleblowing procedures should there be a need. The board of governors receive termly updates from the DSL and safeguarding governor which enables them to maintain an effective oversight and scrutiny of the safeguarding policy and its implementation. A suitable annual review of safeguarding is conducted. Suitable arrangements exist for recruitment checks to be undertaken thoroughly. There is suitable control of technology within the school, including in the EYFS, and pupils receive appropriate guidance on staying safe online.
- 2.5 The school's safeguarding records incorporate behavioural and mental health concerns, providing a clear picture of individual pupils' needs. Pupils confirmed that they can approach any of the staff with a concern, are listened to and receive help when needed. They reported that they find the weekly form time helpful, when they share any worries, they may have. They also feel that they can talk to senior leaders at any time. The school's arrangements to safeguard pupils' welfare and its ethos of listening to pupils are likely to continue to meet the regulations when pupil numbers increase.

Welfare, health, and safety of pupils – health and safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 11]

- 2.6 The school meets the standard.
- 2.7 Systems and procedures to promote health and safety are implemented effectively when pupils are in the premises and during off-site activities. There is a suitable policy for health and safety and regular checks are carried out to monitor its implementation. The new premises have been altered suitably to maximise the use of space when pupil numbers are increased. Rooms are suitably sized and are organised effectively in a way which enable pupils to learn. This is likely to continue as and when pupil numbers increase.

Welfare, health, and safety of pupils – fire safety [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12]

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.

- 2.9 Arrangements to reduce the risk from fire and other hazards are effective. A fire risk assessment has been undertaken for the new premises and the school has acted upon its recommendations. Fire detection equipment, extinguishers, and alarm systems are checked frequently and maintained in line with requirements. Efficient evacuation drills are held regularly and properly recorded, as confirmed in records and during interviews with pupils and staff. Fire evacuation signage is clear throughout the building and corridors are kept clear in line with requirements. These arrangements are likely to continue to meet requirements with the increase in pupil numbers.

Welfare, health, and safety of pupils – supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14]

- 2.10 The school meets the standard.
- 2.11 The school maintains appropriate levels of supervision, including staff to pupil ratios in the EYFS, throughout the school day. The school has suitable plans to ensure that these levels of supervision are likely to be maintained when there are additional pupils, through increased staffing.

Welfare, health, and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.12 The school meets the standard.
- 2.13 The school has an appropriate risk assessment policy. Suitable provision for the reduction and management of risk is in place for all visits and activities both on and off site, including in the EYFS. These identify likely risk effectively and provide for suitable measures to mitigate any risks identified. These arrangements are likely to continue to meet requirements with the increase in pupil numbers.

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

- 2.14 The school meets the standards.
- 2.15 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff and governors and a register is kept as required. The information on the register reflects documentation seen in staff files. These arrangements are likely to continue to meet requirements with the increase in pupil numbers.

Premises and accommodation [ISSR Part 5, paragraph 23 to 29]

- 2.16 The school meets the standard.
- 2.17 The new site provides suitable accommodation for pupils' needs and is likely to remain suitable with the proposed changes in numbers. All areas of the school are maintained in a good state and regularly monitored for safety; any maintenance issues are promptly remedied. Effective provision is in place for pupils to have access to drinking water. Appropriate medical facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed increase in numbers. Toilet and washing basins are adequate for the number of pupils and will remain so with the proposed increase in numbers. Lighting, acoustics, and water supply are maintained appropriately. External areas are available for children in the EYFS to be outside when they wish, and all pupils make use of an external playground across the road for break times and physical education.

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 The school's leadership and management including the governing body, demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to fulfil their responsibilities to meet the independent school standards and regulations. They have ensured that the new premises are suitable and have planned appropriately for the proposed increase in pupil numbers. They ensure that the school's arrangements actively promote pupils' well-being, and it is likely that these arrangements will continue to do so with the increase in pupil numbers.
- 2.21 As a result of a decision made by the Board of Trustees on 4 June 2022, the target number of EYFS students has been raised from 20 to 28. As a result, EYFS students will be accommodated both on the lower ground floor and on either the raised ground or 1st floor of the building to ensure appropriate access to WCs. The governors and leaders have appropriate plans to make fuller use of the existing provision for EYFS and this will enable them to provide appropriately for the proposed increase in numbers.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

- 3.1 It is recommended that the school is granted permission to increase its registered number of pupils to 80. This will include the recent decision made by the Board of Trustees on 4 June 2022, to raise the target number of EYFS students from 20 to 28. The EYFS students will be accommodated both on the lower ground floor and on either the raised ground or 1st floor of the building to ensure appropriate access to WCs. The building will accommodate the extra numbers easily and the staffing will be adjusted to ensure the ratios and qualifications are appropriate.

4. Summary of evidence

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