



**Progress Monitoring Inspection Report**

**The Croft Preparatory School**

**September 2023**

## School's details

<b>School</b>	The Croft Preparatory School			
<b>DfE number</b>	937/6016			
<b>Address</b>	The Croft Preparatory School Loxley Road Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 7RL			
<b>Telephone number</b>	01789 293795			
<b>Email address</b>	office@croftschool.co.uk			
<b>Headmaster</b>	Mr Marcus Cook			
<b>Chair of proprietors</b>	Mrs Lyndall Bagnall nee Thornton			
<b>Proprietor</b>	The Croft School Ltd			
<b>Age range</b>	2 to 11			
<b>Number of pupils on roll</b>	368			
	<b>EYFS</b>	65	<b>Pre-prep</b>	87
	<b>Prep</b>	216		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	14 September 2023			

## 1. Introduction

### Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 The Croft Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school. Established in the Old Town area of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1933, it was purchased by the Thornton family in 1981. The school moved to its current site on Alveston Hill, a few miles south of the town centre, in 1986. It is a limited company, with three of the family forming the board of directors who are responsible for the school's governance.
- 1.2 The school has identified 46 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Two pupils have an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Two pupils in the school speak English as an additional language (EAL). The school's previous inspection was a focused compliance and educational quality inspection in February and March 2023.

### Purpose of the inspection

- 1.3 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the focused compliance and educational quality inspection on 28 February to 2 March 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 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	<b>Met</b>
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and mangement)	<b>Met</b>

## 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 School leaders and managers, including the proprietors, ensure that the safeguarding policy is implemented effectively. All staff and proprietors, including those with specific safeguarding responsibilities, are suitably trained in line with locally agreed procedures. Safeguarding leads liaise effectively with local safeguarding partners, using them as a source of advice and guidance. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and report that their training prepares them well to deal with any safeguarding incidents should they occur. They also understand up-to-date definitions of abuse, recognising the particular vulnerabilities of those pupils with protected characteristics, including those with SEND, in relation to child-on-child abuse. All staff are suitably trained on the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. Staff also understand the importance of associated policies and procedures such as those relating to whistleblowing and the staff code of conduct. They understand their role in reporting any low-level concerns about fellow staff members. School leaders record all low-level concerns about staff members received from staff, pupils or parents and act appropriately when required so to do. Safeguarding leads keep careful records of all safeguarding matters. Such incidents are categorised according to their nature. This means that leaders can identify any patterns or trends that may require particular interventions.
- 2.5 In discussions, pupils state that they feel safe in school and that there is a strong culture of listening and support. They state that there is always a staff member to whom they can talk should they have any worries or concerns. They also say that the staff will respond swiftly and appropriately to support their wellbeing. Records of safeguarding confirm that this happens in practice. Pupils understand about how to stay safe online, citing their computing lessons and assemblies as key times when this is reinforced. The school ensures that there are effective firewall systems in place to prevent pupils from accessing potentially unsuitable internet sites.
- 2.6 The proprietors have effective oversight of the school's arrangements and review safeguarding policies and procedures regularly. There is a proprietor with specific responsibility to lead on safeguarding and they liaise effectively with school leaders. The proprietors have appropriate oversight of the school's safer recruitment procedures, which are now secure. School leaders have revised the procedures for checking all sections of the recruitment process. This has ensured that all checks which are required by statutory guidance are completed before a person commences work at the school. These include taking up suitable references and that all staff engaged in teaching work are checked against the list of those prohibited from teaching before they commence employment.

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

- 2.7 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]**

- 2.8 The school meets the standard.
- 2.9 School leaders and the proprietors have implemented in full the action plan required by the previous inspection. They demonstrate appropriate knowledge and skills, which they implement effectively to ensure that the standards are met consistently and that they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

### **3. Regulatory action points**

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and requirements of the Early Years Statutory Framework, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

## **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 proprietors. He talked with a group of pupils. He scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.