

Material change inspection report

6 June 2025

Princethorpe College

Leamington Road

Princethorpe

Rugby

Warwickshire

CV23 9PX

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 has requested a material change request to increase the number of pupils from 940 to 980.

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, 14, 16(a) and (b)

1. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding, which includes suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. The policy is effectively implemented.
2. Leaders prioritise safeguarding and ensure that staff have effective and frequent training to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) completes appropriate training, which is in line with statutory guidance and local requirements.
3. Leaders embed an effective culture of safeguarding. Staff understand what to do if they have concerns about pupils or about the behaviour of adults. The designated safeguarding lead responds swiftly to any potential concern, taking the required action. They maintain detailed and thorough records, which are kept electronically and securely.
4. Leaders work effectively with external agencies and make appropriate referrals where required. Leaders work with pupils and parents to ensure that the individual needs of the pupils are met.
5. Pupils know that there is a wide range of staff to whom they can turn if they feel worried or concerned. Pupils are confident that their concerns will be followed up.
6. Pupils are supported in learning how to keep themselves safe, including online. Monitoring and filtering of technology is effective, and leaders make regular checks that systems are working appropriately.
7. Governors maintain effective oversight of safeguarding. They meet regularly with the DSL, the safeguarding team and the headteacher to ensure that they have a detailed oversight of safeguarding procedures and to check that these are properly implemented.
8. The school's provision for health and safety is well managed. There is a suitable health and safety policy which is implemented effectively by the school ensuring that all relevant laws are complied with. Records show that testing of utilities is systematically undertaken. Governors monitor health and safety effectively.
9. The school has an appropriate policy and procedures for fire safety. The school has external fire professionals who carry out a suitable fire risk assessment which is then supported and followed up internally. All staff and pupils are trained in fire evacuation and regular drills are undertaken and recorded.
10. Pupils of all ages throughout the school are properly supervised by suitably qualified and trained staff. Roles and responsibilities of staff are clear both in and out of the classroom, including for after school activities and prep.
11. There is a suitable risk assessment policy in place. Risk assessments identify key areas of risk and suitable steps to be taken to mitigate risks identified, including for safeguarding. There are

appropriate risk assessments throughout the school including for pupil welfare. Leaders check and monitor the risk assessments. This work is also overseen effectively by governors.

12. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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

ISSR paragraphs 17 to 21

13. All the required checks on staff, governors and volunteers are carried out and completed before they take up their positions. A suitable register of appointments is kept.
14. The school meets the Standards and 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 to 29

15. Suitable toilet and changing accommodation and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to the standard required; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; and water provision is adequate. There is suitable outdoor space for physical education and outdoor play.
16. The proprietors added a new science building in September 2023, adding ten new laboratories, releasing multiple spaces throughout the school and no additional building work is needed to cater for the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
17. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

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.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)

19. Suitable practices and procedures are implemented effectively which allow senior leaders and the governing body to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements and monitor compliance with the standards and other statutory advice including regarding safer recruitment.
20. The leadership and management fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are consistently met.
21. Leaders have planned effectively for the proposed increase in pupil numbers within the current structures of the school. Leaders actively promote the wellbeing of pupils. This is likely to continue to be the case if the material change is implemented.

22. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Princethorpe College
Department for Education number	937/6084
Registered charity number	1087124
Address	Princethorpe College Leamington Road Princethorpe Rugby Warwickshire CV23 9PX
Phone number	01926 634200
Email address	post@princethorpe.co.uk
Website	www.princethorpe.co.uk
Proprietor	The Princethorpe Foundation
Chair	Mr John Fisher
Headteacher	Mr Grove du Toit
Age range	11-18
Number of pupils	894
Date of previous inspection	26 to 29 April 2022

Information about the school

23. Princethorpe College is an independent co-educational Catholic day school located in a rural setting near Rugby, Warwickshire. The school is part of a charitable foundation overseen by a board of trustees who also have responsibility for two preparatory schools and a nursery. Since the previous inspection a new headteacher was appointed in January 2023 and a new chair of governors in January 2025.
24. The school has identified 218 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A very small number of pupils in the school have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
25. The school has identified 21 pupils for whom English is an additional language.
26. The school states that its aims are to develop resilient, independent and kind individuals, prepared for real-life challenges, learning from mistakes and thriving in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration. Each young person is valued, encouraged and challenged to explore and excel in their academic and co-curricular pursuits, shaping their character within the kind, inclusive and vibrant community.

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 dates

6 June 2025

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

28. 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 suitability for the material change request
- discussions with the chair of governors and another 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**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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