

Progress monitoring report

11 December 2025

Battle Abbey School

High Street

Battle

East Sussex

TN33 0AD

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) and 7(b), 8(a) and 8(b) and 15; NMS 8.1 and 11

1. There is a vigilant culture of safeguarding in the school. Safeguarding arrangements are effective and reflect the requirements of current statutory guidance. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibilities respond promptly and appropriately to any safeguarding concerns that arise. They consult with external safeguarding partners and refer safeguarding concerns to them when appropriate. Suitable arrangements for the handling of allegations against staff or senior leaders are in place, including the reporting and follow-up of low-level concerns. These are well understood by staff. Leaders keep suitable records of safeguarding concerns and the decisions and actions taken in response to these.
2. Governors maintain an effective overview of the implementation of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures. Governors with particular responsibility for safeguarding carry out thorough reviews of safeguarding practice at the school. All governors undertake suitable training in safeguarding.
3. Safeguarding induction and training for staff, including for the safeguarding team, are thorough, regular and in line with local requirements. Leaders provide safeguarding updates and scenario-based training for all staff. This is supplemented by online courses which also assess staff understanding. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and know how to escalate concerns when required.
4. Leaders are aware of the contextual risks and challenges facing pupils beyond the school, including the potential risks relating to radicalisation and extremism.
5. Leaders provide a number of ways for pupils to raise any concerns that they might have. Pupils know who to go to should they wish to share any concerns.
6. The school maintains a suitable admission register which contains the required information. Leaders liaise appropriately with the local authority when pupils leave or join the school at non-standard transition points.
7. Since the previous inspection, leaders have implemented measures to ensure that attendance registers are maintained correctly. Form tutors and heads of year systematically monitor attendance in order to identify and address any concerns. Pastoral staff work with the senior attendance champion to support pupils and their families so that pupils attend school regularly. The school notifies the local authority appropriately about any concerns relating to attendance. Leaders' prioritising attendance has led to improved rates of attendance at the school since the previous inspection.
8. Boarding leaders operate a thorough system to introduce new boarders into boarding routines. New boarders receive a two-day induction to understand key systems in the boarding house, including processes for laundry and how to contact a responsible adult if they are unwell at night. Robust measures are in place to ensure that arrangements for boarders to be collected and dropped off at the start and end of terms are appropriately managed.

9. Leaders ensure that boarders are provided with clear information as to who they can contact for advice. Boarders are provided with a number of key contacts within in the school. The identity and role of the independent person are well-known to boarders. Boarders are provided with contact details of a number of external organisations that they can approach for support if required.
10. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

11. Leaders publish a suitable safeguarding policy on the school's website. This policy has due regard for the local context and reflects statutory guidance.
12. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraphs 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2); NMS 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5

13. Since the previous inspection, the school has implemented an attendance policy which is in line with statutory guidance. The policy is made available via the school's website. The policy names a senior attendance champion and explains their role. It states the importance of attendance and how absence is monitored. It sets out the arrangements for how the school liaises with parents and the local authority, as necessary, in the case of any concerns. Leaders ensure that the correct codes are used in the attendance register. Governors carry out effective scrutiny and leaders carry out checks to ensure that these measures are consistently carried out.
14. Governors provide leaders with appropriate oversight and challenge and ensure that leaders have appropriate skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities. They ensure that leaders actively promote the wellbeing of pupils and that the Standards are consistently met.
15. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Battle Abbey School
Department for Education number	845/6018
Registered early years number	EY559865
Registered charity number	306998
Address	Battle Abbey School High Street Battle East Sussex TN33 0AD
Phone number	01424 772385
Email address	office@battleabbeyschool.com
Website	www.battleabbeyschool.com
Proprietor	BAS School Limited
Chair	Rear Admiral John Kingwell CBE JP DL
Headteacher	Mrs Hannah Blake
Age range	Birth to 18 years
Number of pupils	465
Number of boarding pupils	24
Number of children in the early years registered setting	45
Date of previous inspection	11 to 13 March 2025

Information about the school

16. Battle Abbey School is a co-educational day and boarding school. The senior school, for pupils aged 11 to 18, is located at Battle Abbey. The prep school and nursery, which includes a registered early years foundation stage (EYFS) setting, are on separate sites approximately eight miles away in Bexhill-on-Sea. The school is a charitable trust, overseen by a board of governors.
17. Boarding is available in the senior school from the age of 11. Boarders are accommodated in a boarding house which is situated approximately two miles from the school. Boarders are transported between the school and the boarding house each day.
18. There are ten children in the early years, comprising a single reception class. There is also a separate early years setting which is registered with Ofsted for children up to four years old.
19. The school has identified 92 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Two pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
20. The school has identified English as an additional language for 22 pupils.
21. The school states its aims are to be a small family school with high-quality pastoral care and strong academic results where each child is valued. It seeks to inspire pupils to strive for excellence while recognising their achievements according to their unique strengths and interests. The school aims to promote balanced social development and prepare pupils for life beyond school through warm and sensitive pastoral care within a structured day and boarding environment.

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 and the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

11 December 2025

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 the designated safeguarding governor
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, other members of staff
- discussions with day pupils and boarders
- visits to the boarding house accompanied by staff.

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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