

Progress monitoring inspection report

13 March 2026

Castle Court School

Knoll Lane

Corfe Mullen

Dorset

BH21 3RF

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) and 7(b)

1. Leaders establish a robust safeguarding culture. They ensure that the safeguarding policy reflects statutory requirements and is available on the school's website. Suitably trained leaders with responsibility for safeguarding ensure that members of staff receive appropriate training, including at induction and through regular updates concerning safeguarding policies. Leaders and staff use their knowledge and understanding to respond promptly to any concerns they may have about pupils. In line with statutory guidance, the safeguarding team maintains detailed records of safeguarding concerns and the actions leaders have taken in response to concerns.
2. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding liaise well with external agencies, including the local authority children's services and the police. Any required referrals to these agencies are made promptly.
3. Pupils can raise any concerns with trusted adults. Pupils can also raise concerns anonymously using 'worry boxes'.
4. Staff provide pupils with effective online safety training. Leaders implement suitable arrangements for filtering and monitoring of the school's network. They respond promptly to any potentially inappropriate use. Specialist staff test these systems frequently to ensure they remain effective.
5. Safeguarding leaders monitor attendance levels rigorously. They share the required information with the local authority in a timely way.
6. The proprietor provides effective oversight of the school's safeguarding procedures. Governors assure themselves that safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively through regular visits to the school, reports from the safeguarding team and an annual audit of the school's policies and practices.
7. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraphs 18(3); EYFS 3.9

8. Leaders ensure that all required recruitment checks are carried out before an adult begins work or volunteers at the school. Leaders maintain an accurate single central record of appointments (SCR). Personnel files are well maintained and match the information recorded on the SCR. They include records of online checks and notes from interviews.
9. Since the previous inspection, leaders and governors have undertaken suitable further training on safer recruitment and the management of the single central record. They understand safer recruitment practices well and ensure these are followed for each appointment, in line with the updated policy. Leaders now implement an effective new system to ensure regular auditing of recruitment processes.

10. Governors exercise appropriate oversight of safer recruitment practices, including the SCR. They receive regular reports and take part in half termly audits to ensure that agreed processes are implemented effectively.
11. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

12. The school's policy for child protection and safeguarding is regularly updated and published on the school's website.
13. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34

14. Governors and leaders have ensured that the action plan has been implemented fully and effectively since the previous inspection.
15. Leaders have undertaken appropriate further training and made suitable adjustments to the management of safer recruitment. The school's procedures for pre-employment checks are effective.
16. Governors ensure that leaders have the skills and knowledge to fulfil their roles effectively so that the school meets the Standards and the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements consistently, and actively promotes the pupils' wellbeing.
17. The school meets the Standards.

School details

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| School | Castle Court School |
| Department for Education number | 838/6023 |
| Registered charity number | 325028 |
| Address | Castle Court School Knoll Lane Corfe Mullen Dorset BH21 3RF |
| Phone number | 01202 694438 |
| Email address | office@castlecourt.com |
| Website | www.castlecourt.com |
| Proprietor | Castle Court School Educational Trust Limited |
| Chair | Mr Ian Johnston |
| Headteacher | Mrs Katie Johnson |
| Age range | 2 to 13 |
| Number of pupils | 231 |
| Date of previous inspection | 17 to 19 June 2025 |

Information about the school

18. Castle Court School is a co-educational day preparatory school located near the village of Corfe Mullen between Poole and Wimborne in Dorset. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors.
19. There are 49 children in the early years in two Nursery and two Reception classes.
20. The school has identified 38 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A small proportion of pupils have an education, health and care plan.
21. The school has identified four pupils for whom English is an additional language.
22. The school states that its aims are for each pupil to receive an all-round and innovative education in an inspiring learning environment. It seeks to cultivate a love of learning and to enable each child to grow and flourish in all areas of life within a nurturing community which has the Christian faith at the centre of its foundation.

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, 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 dates

13 March 2026

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

24. 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 a 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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For more information, please visit isi.net