ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Material change inspection report

10 September 2026

Kestrel House School

104 Crouch Hill

Crouch End

London

N8 9EA

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 submitted a material change request to increase capacity from 39 to 105 by way of additional premises at St Peter-in-Chains RC Infant School, Elm Grove, Crouch Hill, London, N8 9AJ.

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), 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16(a), 16(b)

1. Leaders maintain a comprehensive safeguarding policy, which reflects up-to-date statutory guidance and takes into account pupils' needs. They implement this policy effectively throughout the school to safeguard pupils who may be at risk of harm.
2. Leaders ensure that staff understand the school's safeguarding procedures by providing regular training, which takes into account the pupils' individual needs and any barriers that may prevent pupils from sharing their concerns. Leaders take particular care to provide routes for non-verbal pupils to raise concerns, including any about child-on-child abuse, and train staff effectively to identify less obvious signs of abuse. Staff maintain a detailed awareness of the needs of pupils in the school and make effective use of the school's procedures for reporting any safeguarding concerns, including concerns about the behaviour of adults that may arise.
3. Suitable internet filtering and monitoring systems are in place. The school implements an appropriate mobile phone policy.
4. Leaders and staff are knowledgeable about current statutory guidance, including recent updates to *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) and the guidance on restrictive interventions and the use of reasonable force. Staff understand how to report the use of any such measures and do so consistently. Leaders ensure that appropriate processes are in place for recording any incidents and informing parents in line with statutory requirements.
5. Leaders communicate effectively with local safeguarding partners where necessary, including, when appropriate, with regard to any concerns about adults within the school.
6. Leaders ensure that safeguarding procedures and policies are appropriate to the proposed increase in capacity and use of an additional school site. These include the planned implementation of additional processes for sharing appropriate information between staff at the two sites to ensure that they maintain appropriate knowledge of pupils' individual circumstances and needs.
7. The school has a suitable health and safety policy, which leaders and staff implement effectively. Leaders systematically consider the risks to pupils' physical safety around the school site and arrange for regular checks and maintenance of the premises and equipment. Leaders have carefully considered how to best ensure the health and safety of pupils when planning the development of the additional premises and accommodation.
8. Leaders provide a suitable fire risk policy and implement it consistently. Staff arrange for regular checks to be completed on fire safety equipment such as alarms, emergency lighting and extinguishers. Leaders commission internal and external fire risk assessments and respond to any

recommendations promptly. Fire evacuation plans take into account the particular needs of the pupils and suitable arrangements are made for any pupils with reduced mobility.

9. Pupils are appropriately supervised. Supervision arrangements take into account pupils' particular vulnerabilities. Staff understand the importance of careful supervision and implement the school's procedures effectively. The school employs sufficient staff to be able to supervise the proposed maximum number of pupils effectively.

10. Leaders maintain a suitable risk assessment policy, which staff implement effectively. Risk assessments cover a comprehensive range of risks and detail suitable mitigations to promote pupils' welfare. Leaders have considered the different risks posed by the proposed introduction of additional premises and increase in the maximum number of pupils and have updated each pupil's individual risk plans appropriately in response. For instance, these plans identify how pupils likely to move to the additional premises will be supported. Effective protocols are in place for the existing premises and planned for the proposed additional premises to prevent any unauthorised entry or exit.

11. The school 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 18, 19, 20, 21

12. Leaders ensure that all personnel undergo all required pre-employment checks before they begin working at the school. Leaders carry out these checks thoroughly and record them systematically in staff files and an accurate single central record of appointments (SCR), which includes the dates when checks were completed. The school does not make use of supply staff but has appropriate procedures in place should this change in the future.

13. The school 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, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

14. Leaders ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are available for pupils in the existing and additional premises. The facilities are appropriate for the proposed maximum number of pupils.

15. Suitable medical accommodation is available in both the existing and new sites. Appropriate accommodation is provided to facilitate therapeutic support for pupils.

16. The school premises are maintained to an appropriate standard. Leaders review the use of accommodation to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils. Leaders carefully consider the acoustics and lighting of the environment and ensure that they are appropriate across both the proposed new and existing accommodation.

17. Appropriate supplies of water, including drinking water, are provided in the existing and proposed new premises. Drinking water supplies are clearly identified and toilets and washing facilities have suitable hot and cold running water.

18. Leaders ensure that suitable outdoor space is available for pupils to play and experience physical education. The outdoor space in the new premises is suitable to support the proposed increase in capacity.

19. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

20. The safeguarding policy is provided to parents on the school's website.

21. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

22. Leaders demonstrate the knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles effectively and promote pupils' wellbeing. They understand the Standards and current statutory guidance and implement suitable policies and procedures, including with regard to safeguarding, health and safety, and risk assessment. Leaders regularly review policies to ensure they are appropriate and provide ongoing staff training to ensure their consistent and effective implementation.

23. Leaders have planned for the increase in capacity and design and use of the proposed additional premises carefully and have adapted existing procedures appropriately to ensure the likelihood that the Standards will continue to be met. They have considered possible risks related to the proposed material change and planned suitable measures to mitigate these risks.

24. Governors oversee the school's current arrangements and development planning effectively. They maintain regular communication with school leaders and visit the school regularly. They carefully scrutinise leaders' reports, including those relating to safeguarding procedures and decision-making, and provide appropriate challenge to school leaders.

25. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

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School details

School	Kestrel House School
Department for Education number	309/6002
Address	Kestrel House School 104 Crouch Hill Crouch End London N8 9EA
Phone number	020 8348 8500
Email address	admin@kestrelhouseschool.co.uk
Website	www.kestrelhouseschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Acorn Care and Education Ltd
Chair	Mr Richard Power
Headteacher	Ms Aimée McMillan
Age range	5 to 16
Number of pupils	42
Date of previous inspection	10 to 12 March 2026

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Information about the school

26. Kestrel House School is an independent co-educational special day school located in Crouch End, London. The school caters for pupils who have autism and complex needs. The school is part of Acorn Care and Education Ltd, whose directors provide governance.
27. The school has identified all pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. All pupils have an education, health and care plan.
28. The school has identified a very small proportion of pupils for whom English is an additional language.
29. The school states that its aims are to promote the core values of pride, play and preparation for adulthood. It intends for these values to shape the curriculum, relationships and daily practice, so that every pupil is supported to thrive as an individual.

Purpose of the material change inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the Department for Education 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	10 September 2026

30. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.

31. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a tour of the existing and proposed additional school sites to determine their suitability
- discussions with the chair of governors
- 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**.

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