

# Progress monitoring and Material change inspection report

1 to 2 May 2025

## **d'Overbroeck's**

333 Banbury Road

Oxford

Oxfordshire

OX2 7PL

## Inspection outcome

The school meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

The school has requested a material change request to alter their age range from 11 to 18 to 11 to 20. 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), 8(a) and (b), 11, 12, 13, 16(a) and (b); NMS 7.1, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 10.2.

1. Safeguarding arrangements at the school effectively promote the welfare of pupils. The safeguarding policy is in line with statutory guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education*. Appropriate guidance to staff is given through the policy and related school documentation and risk assessments. Leaders ensure staff understand how to manage safeguarding arrangements and changes in risk for pupils who are over 18 years of age and legally adult, including for those who are in boarding accommodation.
2. Staff with suitable experience have specific responsibilities for safeguarding on each of the school sites. They are all appropriately trained to fulfil the requirements of their role, including appropriately supporting those pupils in boarding houses or with host families. The designated safeguarding leader (DSL), members of the safeguarding team, senior staff and chair of governors have also completed adult safeguarding training, in line with guidance from the local designated safeguarding officer (LADO). Relevant information relating to safeguarding is communicated with staff. The safeguarding team have suitable knowledge of safeguarding adults to enable them to access appropriate guidance and support for pupils over the age of 18, if necessary.
3. The DSL keeps detailed records, including the rationale for any actions taken as a result concerns raised. This includes concerns relating to boarding pupils. The DSL also maintains the low-level concerns log for any concerns raised about the behaviour and conduct of staff. Leaders ensure that all safeguarding records are regularly monitored and reviewed, patterns are carefully considered, and any necessary resulting action is implemented promptly and effectively.
4. Governors carry out regular reviews of the school's safeguarding policy and practice in line with statutory requirements. This includes an annual review to the governing board which is also shared with the local authority. A governor visits regularly to review safeguarding processes and with the DSL reports ongoing actions to every governing board meeting. Governors regularly visit the different sites and boarding houses of the school as part of their monitoring procedures. Recent governor visits have also included checks to monitor the implementation of leaders' action plan to address the unmet Standards identified at the previous inspection. Governors provide appropriate support and challenge to school leaders and hold them to account in their safeguarding responsibilities.
5. Leaders ensure all staff and those who encounter pupils such as host families, are appropriately trained in safeguarding. Leaders ensure all understand relevant legislation and guidance and how this is implemented through the school's safeguarding policies and procedures. They check staff knowledge is embedded through opportunities to discuss scenarios and relevant case studies.

6. Staff are vigilant and promptly communicate any safeguarding concerns to the safeguarding team. Staff understand and follow the requirements of the Prevent legislation. Staff are alert to any contextual risks and risks that are specific to the pupils in the school, including risks associated with adult pupils.
7. Pupils know who they can speak to if they are worried. This includes pupils in boarding houses who also have appropriate access to an independent person. Pupils receive appropriate advice about available support organisations external to the school. Pupils in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, including those over the age of 18, all have directors of studies (DOS) whom they meet regularly. Leaders ensure that any issues raised are swiftly acted on so that pupils receive appropriate care and support.
8. Leaders ensure pupils can access counselling support in school if necessary. Staff communicate effectively across the school sites, between day and boarding staff and where necessary with host families, so that pupils' needs are understood and appropriate actions are taken. Referrals are made swiftly and detailed records kept of all decisions and actions. Staff liaise with external agencies and safeguarding partners to ensure the required support is available.
9. The curriculum is effectively planned to include guidance to pupils on how to keep themselves safe, including online. This also includes for boarders, consideration of any contextual risks relating to location. Pupils are taught how to form positive relationships and how to deal with issues such as discriminatory behaviour. There are suitable processes in place for filtering and monitoring the school's internet. These are appropriately tested to ensure pupils can use the school's systems safely.
10. Leaders ensure that the required recruitment checks are carried out on adults before they take up their employment at the school. These checks are recorded accurately on the single central record. Personnel files are well managed and contain relevant documentation. Leaders have implemented a recruitment procedure and series of checks on pupils joining the school when they are over the age of 18. These checks effectively support individual risk assessments and enable leaders to manage potential safeguarding risks.
11. Leaders maintain effective oversight of safeguarding. Records are regularly monitored and discussed to identify trends and risk. Since the previous inspection, leaders have adapted the provision to ensure that potential risks are effectively identified and managed to meet the needs of all pupils.
12. Leaders and governors have sought specialist advice in relation to health and safety. Governors have ensured effective oversight and support for leaders to implement the school's action plan as a result of unmet Standards identified at the previous inspection.
13. Leaders ensure that staff are appropriately trained for their role and to use the school's online management system effectively. This system enables staff to effectively and proactively implement identified health and safety actions in a timely manner. Specifically identified site staff record results of regular audits of their own areas of responsibility. These audits effectively identify any areas of health and safety concern. The school maintenance team swiftly respond to act on any identified issue so that the site is maintained to a suitable standard.
14. Leaders keep appropriately detailed and well-managed health and safety records. Leaders and governors monitor the impact of leaders' actions through regular audits. The health and safety committee identify any further planned actions needed and report to the full governing board. Leaders ensure both proactive and reactive procedures are in place to maintain the health and safety of the school premises.
15. Fire risk assessments are appropriately completed for each site, including the boarding houses. Actions identified are completed in a timely manner.

16. Staff are appropriately trained in line with their responsibility for fire safety. Leaders keep effective training records. Site staff monitor fire safety in regular site audits ensuring corridors are clear, and that any materials are safely and appropriately stored to maintain unobstructed fire evacuation routes, including in boarding houses. Regular fire evacuation drills take place including in boarding time. Leaders and governors monitor site audits to identify any patterns of concern and plan further action or strategic decisions. Governors ensure appropriate resources are provided to meet any identified needs.
17. First aid stations containing appropriate first aid kits are located at various places on all school sites and in boarding houses. Well-qualified and suitably trained staff regularly check and monitor use of kits so that suitable in-date materials are readily available when they are needed.
18. Leaders ensure staff have been appropriately trained to use the school management systems when recording any provision of first aid or medicines. Leaders monitor these records to ensure information and communication regarding decisions that are taken are shared effectively between and across the school sites with appropriate staff. This ensures pupils receive medical support and any follow up they need in a timely manner.
19. Leaders have carried out a comprehensive assessment of risks relating to the education and boarding provision of pupils who are over the age of 18. This carefully considers the risk of having pupils who are by law, seen as adults on the school sites. Leaders have sought advice from several external agencies including the LADO. Leaders have ensured all the actions identified are comprehensively mitigated and acted on. Pupils through the school are made aware of risk where relevant, in assemblies and house meetings. Individual risk assessments have been completed for each site of the school relevant to the pupils who are accommodated there.
20. Governors monitor the implementation of all risk assessments through the risk subcommittee which reports to each full board meeting. Leaders have effectively implemented their action plan.
21. 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 paragraph 25

22. The proprietor ensures that the premises are maintained to such a standard so that the health, safety and welfare of pupils are effectively promoted.
23. 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)

24. The required information about the safeguarding policy is published to parents on the school website.
25. The school meets the Standard.

## **Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools**

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

26. Governors ensure that leaders demonstrate good knowledge and skills and promote a robust safeguarding, health and safety and risk awareness culture throughout the school.
27. Leaders ensure that risks are understood and effectively managed. They ensure that all works relating to health and safety are carried out in a timely manner and the premises are maintained to such a standard that the health, safety and welfare of pupils are effectively promoted. Due attention is paid to ensuring fire safety to promote the welfare of pupils at the school, including boarders.
28. Leaders ensure that due attention is given to pupils' safeguarding and associated risk relating to pupils who are over 18, who are legally adults, studying and boarding at the school.
29. The monitoring of safeguarding by leaders and governors is rigorous. Governors assure themselves that all the required safeguarding policies, updates and procedures are implemented consistently. The action plan established to rectify previously unmet standards following the previous inspection has been fully implemented.
30. The leadership and management of the school fulfil their responsibilities so that the wellbeing of the pupils is actively promoted.
31. The school meets the Standards and is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

## School details

<b>School</b>	d'Overbroeck's
<b>Department for Education number</b>	931/6104
<b>Address</b>	d'Overbroeck's 333 Banbury Road Oxford Oxfordshire OX2 7PL
<b>Phone number</b>	01865 688600
<b>Email address</b>	principal@doverbroecks.com
<b>Website</b>	www.doverbroecks.com
<b>Proprietor</b>	d'Overbroeck's Limited
<b>Chair</b>	Richard Davies
<b>Headteacher</b>	Patrick Horne
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 18
<b>Number of pupils</b>	692
<b>Number of boarding pupils</b>	305
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 to 24 October 2024

## Information about the school

33. d'Overbroeck's is a co-educational independent day and boarding school for pupils aged between 11 and 19 in three sections on separate sites, a sixth form for 16 to 19 year-olds, an international section for 13 to 16 year-olds and a senior school for pupils aged 11 to 16 years. The current principal took up his post in October 2022. The school is part of the Nord Anglia Education Group of schools overseen by a governing body. The current chair of governors was appointed in September 2024.
34. Boarding is provided in seven boarding houses for pupils in the sixth form and the international school. A number of pupils stay with host families.
35. The school has identified 212 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Three pupils in the school have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
36. English is an additional language for 170 pupils.
37. The school states its aim is to enable all pupils to be happy and confident in themselves so that they excel academically and thrive personally, and have the curiosity, skills and adaptability to be ready for a successful future.

## Purpose of the material change and progress monitoring inspection

This was a progress monitoring inspection carried out section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, combined with a 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 this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards and National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other Standards that were unmet at the school's previous inspection, and to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the independent school Standards if the material change the school has requested is implemented.

## Inspection details

### Inspection dates

1 and 2 May 2025

38. One reporting inspector reporting inspector visited the school for two days.

39. 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 visit the 6<sup>th</sup> form, international school, and a number of boarding houses
- discussions with the chair of governors and members of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff

- discussions with pupils and staff
- visits to the boarding houses accompanied by pupils and staff
- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school
- scrutiny of information published on the school's website.



### **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](http://www.isi.net)**.

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