ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Progress monitoring inspection report

6 October 2026

Our Lady's Preparatory School

The Avenue

Crowthorne

RG45 6PB

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), 15

1. Leaders have taken effective action since the previous inspection to ensure that arrangements for recording and monitoring pupils' absence reflect current statutory guidance. Leaders have communicated clear expectations to pupils, staff and parents about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. They make clear to parents that the need or desire for a holiday for the purpose of leisure and recreation is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance for which a leave of absence can be granted.
2. Leaders and trustees have reviewed the attendance policy so that it reflects current statutory guidance. The policy now includes the correct codes to record attendance. Staff have been trained to use the correct codes to log an absence. Registration periods are clearly outlined in the policy and procedures are completed in accordance with statutory guidance. Leaders check registers and follow up swiftly on any absence. They review attendance logs to check for patterns and take appropriate action when necessary. Leaders are clear about when absences should be marked as unauthorised and when they need to liaise with the relevant local authority about attendance.
3. Pupils who arrive late at school are registered as such, in line with the school's attendance policy. Leaders provide appropriate support for pupils and parents to promote punctuality. This has led to improvements in attendance, which is high overall.
4. Leaders inform the local authority when pupils leave or join the school at non-standard transition times. They seek advice, make referrals as needed and work closely with the local authority, children's services and the police to support pupils and families and promote pupils' wellbeing.
5. Leaders maintain effective safeguarding policies and procedures. They promote a vigilant culture of safeguarding across the school so that staff understand their responsibilities.
6. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibility are trained as required. They ensure their understanding of contextual risks to pupils is up to date by attending conferences organised by the local authority and undertaking additional training in these areas.
7. Trustees undertake appropriate safeguarding training and visit the school regularly to ensure the safeguarding policy is being implemented effectively. They have frequent discussions with the safeguarding team and review logs to ensure that appropriate actions are taken. Trustees have oversight of low-level concerns about adults in the school.
8. Staff undertake the required safeguarding training including in the 'Prevent' duty, to understand situational and contextual risks. Leaders provide thorough induction training and frequent updates for staff so that they are aware of changes to statutory guidance. Staff are trained to be vigilant. They are aware of what to look out for, as relevant to their roles. Staff in the early years understand their safeguarding responsibilities when caring for children, and communicate closely with parents. Staff know when and how to record and report a safeguarding concern.
9. Safeguarding logs are detailed and contain a record of appropriate actions, including communications with parents and relevant external agencies. Leaders share information with

appropriate staff so that pupils can be closely monitored and supported. The safeguarding team liaises with relevant local authorities and children's services when appropriate.

10. Staff understand when and how to report low-level concerns and allegations about adults who work in the school. Expectations are clearly outlined in the staff code of conduct and staff receive appropriate training. Logs of incidents are maintained confidentially and record appropriate action. Leaders seek advice from the local authority and make referrals when necessary.
11. Leaders ensure that pupils across the school are taught how to stay safe online through age-appropriate talks and activities. Pupils learn about the need to keep personal information private and understand the importance of consent. Older pupils are taught how to recognise scams and fake images or information. They know how to respond and when to get help from an adult if they notice anything of concern online. Pupils are well informed about who they can go to if they have a concern, including a range of trusted adults.
12. Leaders maintain effective internet filtering and monitoring arrangements. These systems are reviewed regularly and tested for effectiveness.
13. The school undertakes the required checks before adults begin work in the school. Key staff and trustees undertake suitable safer recruitment training. The single central record of appointments provides an accurate record of pre-employment safeguarding checks and is checked frequently by the leaders and trustees.
14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

15. The safeguarding policy is shared, as required by the Standards on the school's website.
16. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

17. Leaders have taken effective action since the previous inspection to ensure that statutory guidance related to attendance is reflected in policy and practice. They have implemented the action plan and ensured that the Standards relating to attendance are met. The attendance champion is now a member of the senior leadership team and promotes a culture of regular attendance with staff, pupils and parents. Trustees visit the school to assure themselves that leaders have the required knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles effectively.
18. Trustees are now clear about statutory guidance related to attendance. They have improved arrangements for the oversight of attendance and have established a clear link between the oversight of attendance and safeguarding. Trustees carry out half-termly discussions with leaders to ensure that the policy is being implemented effectively and that the Standards are met.
19. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Our Lady's Preparatory School
Department for Education number	872/6007
Registered early years number	EY548420
Registered charity number	1155373
Address	Our Lady's Preparatory School The Avenue Crowthorne Berkshire RG45 6PB
Phone number	01344 773394
Email address	office@olps.co.uk
Website	www.olps.co.uk
Proprietor	The Church of the Holy Ghost Crowthorne Trust
Chair	Mrs Amy Empson
Headteacher	Mr David Boynes
Age range	Birth to 11 years
Number of pupils	251
Number of children in the early years registered setting	97
Date of previous inspection	24 to 26 March 2026

Information about the school

20. Our Lady's Preparatory School is an independent co-educational day school situated in Crowthorne, Berkshire. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board oftrustees.
21. Since the previous inspection, the deputy head has been appointed as acting headteacher in September 2026. The current chair of trustees was appointed to her role in September 2026.
22. There are 19 children in the early years in a single Reception class. The nursery setting is registered with Ofsted and provides places for children under four years of age.
23. The school has identified 33 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
24. The school has identified five pupils for whom English is an additional language.
25. The school states that its aim is to provide an inclusive, faith-based learning environment where a community is built of children who are appropriately nurtured and prepared for life in the twenty-first century.

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	6 October 2026

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

27. 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 trustees and the trustee with responsibility for safeguarding and attendance
- 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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