

## **AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE**

Ampleforth, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 4ER

**07 MARCH 2017**

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL**

Ampleforth College is a co-educational boarding and day school situated in the Howardian Hills in North Yorkshire, adjacent to the Benedictine Ampleforth Abbey. It educates pupils from the ages of 13 to 18, most of whom are boarders. Currently the school educates 573 pupils, of whom 99 are day pupils. The school, together with St Martin's, a linked preparatory school around two miles away, is overseen by the St Laurence Education Trust, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust. No pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan or statement of special educational needs. There are 177 pupils who have been identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and 85 have English as an additional language (EAL). The previous ISI inspection was in January 2016.

### **PURPOSE OF THE VISIT**

This was an unannounced additional inspection at the request of the Department for Education which focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs) and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding 2015 (NMS), particularly those concerned with safeguarding; the provision of information; pupils' welfare, health and safety, including measures to ensure suitable supervision of pupils, including boarders; and leadership and management of the school.

### **INSPECTION FINDINGS**

#### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) & 8 (a) and (b); NMS 11]**

The school meets the regulations and standard.

The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils and has regard to the latest government guidance. Implementation of the school's safeguarding procedures is effective and provides appropriate support for pupils' needs.

Safeguarding procedures are implemented to safeguard children at risk and those in need. Staff show effective understanding of their responsibilities, including in reporting any concerns about a child in need or at risk, or any allegation concerning an adult working in the school. Staff show suitable awareness of the suitable, separate staff code of conduct, referred to in the safeguarding policy, safeguarding procedures and other advice. Reference is made in the safeguarding policy to whistleblowing procedures. Staff understand its provisions and showed

confidence when interviewed about raising a concern without prejudice to their own position. Suitable recruitment procedures for all staff are provided within a separate policy.

The safeguarding policy includes suitable definitions of abuse. The school has an effective understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) guidance on supporting children in need and those at risk and this is implemented effectively. Discussion with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) confirmed that pupils receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating and this is supported in written evidence from records. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) acts on and refers the early signs of abuse and neglect, keeps clear records, ensures that the school listens to the views of pupils and shares information promptly, as required by Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2016 (KCSIE). Effective communication is maintained with parents. Pupils receive guidance on staying safe, including in relation to e-safety, and monitoring and filtering of technology is effective.

The DSL and senior managers work very closely with local agencies and this is evident from written records. Children's Services, the police, and representatives of the local diocese attend regular, minuted meetings of the abbey safeguarding commission, which has oversight of contact between the abbey and both schools with which it is linked. The policy gives contact details for required local agencies. Arrangements for handling allegations against staff are included in an appendix to the safeguarding policy; these include seeking immediate advice from the LADO and are implemented efficiently and effectively. The school fulfils its role in reporting any person whose services are no longer used where referral criteria are met to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and/or National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL). It pays due regard to guidance from external agencies as to when this should be done. Alternative persons of appropriate status are provided in the absence of the DSL and suitably trained.

Annual review of safeguarding by the education trust is effective. This includes a review of implementation and there is regular contact between those with safeguarding responsibilities and a nominated trustee from the education trust to liaise regarding safeguarding. This trustee is also a member of the abbey safeguarding commission. When incidents linked to safeguarding occur, including allegations against adults working in the school, they are reviewed appropriately by trustees and improvements are identified and implemented.

The training for the DSL and deputies is appropriate and meets LSCB expectations. Training held in the school for teaching and non-teaching staff is up to date and of suitable quality and scope. Appropriate training is provided on induction. In interview, staff were familiar with all the required elements.

**Welfare, health and safety of pupils – ensuring proper supervision of pupils [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 14; NMS 14.4 & 15.3]**

The school meets the regulation and standards.

Suitable arrangements are made and implemented to supervise pupils, including in boarding. Sufficient staff are on duty across the extensive site to supervise pupils during breaks and lunchtimes. In boarding, pupils confirmed that supervision arrangements ensure there is no unsupervised access by visitors, including staff not connected with a particular house, to individual boarding houses.

**Provision of information to parents [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32 (1) (c)]**

The school meets the regulation.

The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website and provided to parents on request.

**Quality of Leadership and Management [ISSRs Part 8, paragraph 34]**

The school meets the regulation.

Appropriate procedures are implemented which allow senior leaders and trustees to manage safeguarding and welfare arrangements and monitor compliance with regulations. Contact between trustees and external agencies is regular, facilitated by the abbey safeguarding commission. Annual review of safeguarding is appropriate. Evidence shows that senior leaders actively promote the well-being of pupils.

**REGULATORY ACTION POINTS**

The school meets all of the relevant requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015.