

ISI Inspection Report, January 2013

The School was inspected in January by ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) and this is an Integrated Report which reflects all the educational phases of the School, including the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), Years 1 - 6 and the Senior School.

We are very pleased with the outcome and you will see from the opening words of the report that **'pupils at Saint Martin's School, including those in the EYFS, are well-educated, in accordance with the school's mission statement to provide a safe, happy, supportive and stimulating environment, where each individual girl succeeds'**.

Within the Report you will find the following quotations from the introduction to each section and I have also included some from the body of the text. In an ISI Report headline statements must include one of the ISI descriptors 'excellent', 'good', 'sound' or 'unsatisfactory'.

THE QUALITY OF ACADEMIC AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

The quality of the pupils' achievements and learning

The quality of the pupils' achievements and learning is good.

Pupils at Saint Martin's School are well-educated, in accordance with the school's mission statement.

Pupils demonstrate their understanding, knowledge and skills across the curriculum. As at the time of the previous inspection, pupils' positive attitudes and their exemplary behaviour make a notable contribution to supporting their learning strongly. Pupils have a mature approach to their learning, relative to their ages and they demonstrate good organisational skills.

The contribution of curricular and extra-curricular provision

The contribution of curricular and extra-curricular provision is good.

An excellent programme of extra-curricular and enrichment activities supplements the taught curriculum most effectively and has a significant impact on the pupils' personal development. The curriculum is broad and balanced, reflecting the school's curriculum policy. It successfully addresses all the requisite areas of learning and meets the needs of all pupils at the school.

The contribution of teaching

The quality of teaching is good overall.

In EYFS, teaching is good. In Years 1 to 6, much excellent teaching was observed. In addition to the good teaching in the senior school, the inspection team also saw some excellent teaching.

Throughout the school, teachers have robust subject knowledge. They are dedicated and committed professionals, who give generously of their time to assist pupils in their learning outside the classroom.

THE QUALITY OF THE PUPILS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is excellent.

Such excellence accords with the school's aim to encourage a positive awareness of the spiritual dimension to life and the development of a moral code, including the value of mutual respect and tolerance, underpinned by the Christian ethos of the school.

Effective relationships between pupils and teachers are seen as the bedrock of the school community.

The contribution of arrangements for pastoral care

The contribution of arrangements for pastoral care is excellent.

A strong sense of support, guidance and mutual respect pervades the school, in accordance with its aim to support every girl as an individual.

The role of the form tutor is pivotal in Years 1 to 13 in aiding pupils to grow in confidence and self-esteem and to be respectful of others.

The contribution of arrangements for welfare, health and safety

The contribution of arrangements for welfare, health and safety is good.

This contribution successfully fulfils the school's aim to safeguard all in the community and promote their welfare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The quality of governance

The quality of governance is good.

Governors are firmly committed to the school's mission statement and aims. Since the previous inspection, new appointments have extended the range of expertise of the governing body.

Governors have a clear understanding of their responsibility to manage school finances shrewdly, so that they can invest in the existing fabric of the school and commission new resources.

The quality of leadership and management, including links with parents, carers and guardians

The quality of leadership and management, including links with parents, carers and guardians is good.

At all levels, leadership and management provide effective direction, in accordance with the school's aims to support and value every girl and member of staff, teaching or otherwise, as an individual. Its ability to do so is reflected in the excellent personal development and pastoral care of the pupils, in its extensive extra-curricular programme and good outcomes achieved in all other aspects of school life.

Links with parents, carers and guardians are excellent.

If you have any questions about the Report please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Head of Saint Martin's