

# Progress monitoring inspection report

29 September 2025

## **Pownall Hall School**

Carrwood Road

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5DW

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(b), 12, 13, 14, 16(a) and(b); EYFS: 3.30, 3.35 3.64, 3.65, 3.76

1. The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.
2. Leaders ensure that the safeguarding policy is implemented effectively and understood by staff. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding ensure that safeguarding concerns are reported, recorded, collated and monitored effectively and that appropriate actions are taken to help and support pupils. Safeguarding records are suitably detailed and securely stored. There are effective relationships with local agencies, and safeguarding leaders make appropriate referrals without delay. The safeguarding arrangements are reviewed annually by the proprietor with suitable diligence.
3. Pupils know that they can share concerns with staff and that prompt steps will be taken to support them. Staff understand the importance of early help provision and have an awareness of child-on-child abuse; they take appropriate and timely action when required. Suitable measures are taken to reduce the risk to pupils of radicalisation. There is due regard for pupils' mental health. Pupils feel safe at school.
4. Leaders ensure that training in safeguarding for staff, including all members of the safeguarding team and members of the governing board, is comprehensive. Leaders emphasise the importance of the continuing and frequent provision of safeguarding training. The use of technology by pupils is suitably controlled, including through effective monitoring and filtering of the internet, and they are taught how to stay safe online.
5. Leaders understand their responsibility to respond appropriately if allegations are made about the behaviour of staff, including making prompt referral to external agencies, such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Leaders also understand their responsibility to refer to the Disclosure and Barring Service and Teaching Regulation Agency if necessary. Leaders ensure that staff are confident to report any concerns about the behaviour of adults, including low-level concerns, and to self-refer if they feel it is necessary.
6. Leaders and governors ensure the effectiveness of fire safety arrangements, including through a regular audit. The school's fire risk policy is implemented effectively. Recommended actions from the fire risk assessment are appropriately prioritised and carried out in a timely manner. Staff receive appropriate fire safety training, including with regard to the need to keep fire doors closed. Staff demonstrate suitable awareness of risks, prevention and procedures in a fire emergency. Appropriate equipment is provided and maintenance of alarms and other safety equipment is recorded carefully and effectively. Regular fire drills are held. Pupils are confident regarding evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.
7. Leaders and governors ensure suitable arrangements are in place for the provision of first aid. A suitable first aid policy is in place, and appropriate first aid training is provided to staff. There are effective specific risk assessment procedures relating to emergency first aid. Emergency first aid equipment is provided in suitable locations to enable timely and effective response to any

emergencies.

8. Suitable guidance and procedures are in place to ensure pupils are supervised effectively throughout the school day, including when off site and engaged in outdoor activities. These arrangements include specific procedures during transition times for younger pupils to ensure that suitable supervision is always maintained.
9. Leaders and governors maintain effective oversight of the management of risk. There is an appropriate risk assessment policy which provides for systematic risk assessment and pays attention to key areas of risk and pupils' welfare. These include pupils' activities on site and off site. Staff receive relevant training and completed risk assessments are checked, monitored and evaluated for their effectiveness.
10. The school meets the Standards.

## **Part 6. Provision of information**

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

11. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. The arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website.
12. The school meets the Standard.

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

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

13. The proprietor ensures that leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge, fulfil their responsibilities effectively and actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.
14. The school has fully implemented its action plan so that 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, are met.
15. The school meets the Standards.

## School details

<b>School</b>	Pownall Hall School
<b>Department for Education number</b>	895/6015
<b>Registered early years number</b>	2670353
<b>Registered charity number</b>	525929
<b>Address</b>	Pownall Hall School Carrwood Road Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5DW
<b>Phone number</b>	01625 523141
<b>Email address</b>	genoffice@pownallhallschool.co.uk
<b>Website</b>	www.pownallhallschool.co.uk
<b>Proprietor</b>	Pownall Hall School Trust Limited
<b>Chair</b>	Mrs Eileen MacAulay
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr David Goulbourn
<b>Age range</b>	0 to 11
<b>Number of pupils</b>	291
<b>Number of children in the early years</b>	41
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	1 to 3 October 2024

## Information about the school

16. Pownall Hall School is a co-educational day school located in Wilmslow, Cheshire. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors.
17. There are 122 children in the early years which includes two Reception classes and a Kindergarten class. The registered setting provision runs separately and includes children aged six months to three years.
18. The school has identified 36 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Three pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan (EHC plan).
19. English is an additional language (EAL) for 13 pupils, of whom four receive additional support.
20. The school states that its aims are to provide a caring, disciplined, safe and secure family environment where all pupils are enabled and encouraged to maximise their academic, sporting, musical and creative potential. The school seeks to instil traditional values of courtesy, good manners, mutual respect, tolerance and compassion in its pupils and help them develop self-discipline and good working habits for the future.

## 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

29 September 2025

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

22. 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 check the implementation of fire safety, first aid, supervision and risk assessment arrangements
- 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.

### 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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