

# Progress monitoring inspection report

13 March 2026

## **Cleveland's Preparatory School**

425 Chorley New Road

Bolton

BL1 5DH

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 does not meet all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection. A schedule of unmet Standards is included at the end of the report.

## Inspection findings

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 11, 12, 13 and 16; EYFS 3.27, 3.5, 3.7, 3.79, 3.8 and 3.91

1. Leaders do not keep safeguarding records in accordance with *Keeping children safe in education* (KCSIE). Safeguarding records are not kept securely as is required. Leaders were unable to locate safeguarding records during the inspection.
2. Leaders do not maintain records of low-level concerns that are raised about adults who work at the school, as they are required to do.
3. The proprietor ensures the effective management of other aspects of safeguarding. Leaders review the safeguarding policy so that it reflects current statutory guidance. The proprietor provides oversight of the school's safeguarding practices, including by meeting with the safeguarding team and scrutinising safeguarding documentation.
4. Appropriately trained leaders with responsibility for safeguarding meet regularly to discuss vulnerable pupils and any safeguarding concerns. Leaders consult appropriately with local safeguarding partners and refer safeguarding concerns to them when required.
5. Staff receive effective safeguarding training, including at induction. For example, they know how to recognise different forms of child-on-child abuse and understand the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. Leaders provide staff with effective training about how to recognise and report low-level or more serious concerns relating to another adult who works at the school. Leaders meet with staff regularly to share safeguarding updates and to inform them about any safeguarding concerns.
6. Leaders provide pupils with appropriate systems to inform staff about any worries they may have. For instance, leaders provide suggestion boxes and 'let's talk' cards so that pupils can seek support and guidance. Pupils are confident that they can talk to any member of staff.
7. Staff teach pupils to take sensible and responsible decisions that promote their personal safety, including when online. The school implements a suitable internet filtering and monitoring system. Leaders respond promptly to any potentially inappropriate use of the internet.
8. In the early years, leaders demonstrate a thorough understanding of the specific requirements that relate to working with young children. They maintain appropriate ratios so that children are supervised effectively. Staff monitor children carefully when they are eating and drinking and are alert to the danger of choking.
9. Leaders manage the school's health and safety procedures appropriately. For example, they conduct regular health and safety visual checks. Staff receive suitable guidance and training so that they know how to report health and safety concerns. Leaders maintain appropriate records of the actions they take.
10. Leaders do not implement appropriate actions in response to fire safety recommendations identified in the school's external fire risk assessment.

11. Leaders implement other aspects of fire safety effectively. Pupils regularly rehearse how to evacuate buildings in case of an emergency. Leaders ensure that fire-safety equipment is serviced appropriately and that fire routes are clearly marked and clear of obstructions. They monitor that fire doors remain closed.
12. The school provides appropriate first aid and medical provision. A suitable number of staff undertake first aid training. All staff who work in the early years have paediatric first aid qualifications. Leaders store medication securely and keep appropriate records when first aid and medication is administered.
13. Leaders implement appropriate procedures to identify, manage and mitigate risk. Suitably trained staff know how to manage and respond to potential risks. For example, staff in the early years monitor outdoor climbing equipment before children use it to check for slippery surfaces. Leaders ensure there are well-considered risk assessments in place for educational trips and visits. Leaders evaluate and review risk assessments in a timely manner so that they continue to be suitable.
14. The school does not meet the Standards.

#### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

ISSR paragraphs 25, 28(1)(b) and 28(1)(d)

15. The temperature of water provided for pupils to wash their hands is not appropriate, sufficiently regulated or effectively monitored. The water provided in bathroom facilities for pupils in Year 6 and for pupils in Years 1 and 2 is too hot and places pupils at risk of scalding. Pupils in Years 3 to 5 are not provided with sufficient hot water. Consequently, pupils' physical wellbeing is not promoted effectively.
16. In other areas of the school's provision, leaders maintain the premises and accommodation appropriately so that they are suitable for pupils.
17. The school does not meet the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

18. Leaders publish an appropriate safeguarding policy on the school's website.
19. The school meets the Standards.

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

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

20. Leaders have not effectively implemented all parts of their action plan following the previous inspection. The school's arrangements for providing pupils with hot water at an acceptable temperature are not suitable. Leaders have not implemented the actions identified in the fire risk assessment appropriately.
21. Leaders have implemented a range of measures to manage other parts of their action plan effectively. The school's arrangements for managing health and safety procedures, potential risks and first aid and medical provision are now suitable.
22. The proprietor does not provide thorough or systematic oversight of all the school's practices and procedures. The arrangements for maintaining secure safeguarding records are not appropriate. The

proprietor does not ensure that leaders demonstrate sufficient skills and knowledge so that all the Standards are met consistently. Consequently, pupils' wellbeing is not promoted as thoroughly or effectively as it should be.

23. The school does not meet the Standards.

## Schedule of unmet Standards

### The following standards are not met

Paragraph number	Standard
ISSR <sup>1</sup> Part 3, paragraph 7	The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that –
7(a)	arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
7(b)	such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
ISSR Part 3, paragraph 12	The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
ISSR Part 5, paragraph 28(1)	The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—
28(1)(b)	toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water;
28(1)(d)	the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users.
ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34(1)	The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school –
34(1)(a)	demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
34(1)(b)	fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
34(1)(c)	actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.
EYFS <sup>2</sup> 3.5	Providers must have and implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and meet EYFS requirements. Schools are not required to have separate policies to cover EYFS requirements provided the requirements are already met through an existing policy. Where providers are required to have policies and procedures as specified below, these policies and procedures should be recorded in writing. Policies and procedures should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant LSP.
EYFS 3.7	If providers have concerns about children’s safety or welfare, they must immediately notify their local authority children’s social care team, in line with local reporting procedures, and, in emergencies, the police. Providers must also take into account the government’s statutory guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ and ‘Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales’. All schools are required to have regard to the government’s statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’, and other childcare providers may also find it helpful to read this guidance.
EYFS 3.79	Providers must ensure that their premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children cared for and the activities provided on the premises. Providers must comply with

	requirements of health and safety legislation, including fire safety and hygiene requirements.
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The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('ISSR')

<sup>2</sup>Early years foundation stage statutory framework ('EYFS')

## School details

<b>School</b>	Clevelands Preparatory School
<b>Department for Education number</b>	350/6011
<b>Registered early years number</b>	2767189
<b>Address</b>	Clevelands Preparatory School 425 Chorley New Road Bolton Greater Manchester BL1 5DH
<b>Phone number</b>	01204 843898
<b>Email address</b>	office@clevelandsprepschool.co.uk
<b>Website</b>	www.clevelandsprepschool.co.uk
<b>Proprietor</b>	Alpha Schools (Holdings) Ltd
<b>Chair</b>	Mr Ali Khan
<b>Headteacher</b>	Miss Zoë Speck
<b>Age range</b>	6 months to 11 years
<b>Number of pupils</b>	138
<b>Number of children in the early years registered setting</b>	62
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	16 to 18 September 2025

## Information about the school

24. Clevelands Preparatory School is a co-educational day school situated in Bolton, Greater Manchester. The school is a limited company and owned by the Alpha group who provide oversight and governance of the school. The school's provision includes a registered early years foundation stage (EYFS) setting for children aged 6 months to 3 years. The school comprises two further sections: a pre-prep for children aged 4 to 7; and a prep section for pupils aged 7 to 11.
25. There are 28 children in the non-registered early years setting. They are taught in one Nursery and one Reception class. The school's separate early years setting is registered with Ofsted.
26. The school has identified 12 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A small proportion of pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
27. The school has identified that no pupils speak English as an additional language.
28. The school states that it aims for pupils to develop natural curiosity, reasoning skills, positive attitudes, perseverance, imagination and creativity. It seeks to promote a caring, secure and enjoyable learning environment where pupils work collaboratively, develop their potential and prepare well for the next stage of their education and for the world around them. The school endeavours to provide a health-conscious environment in which pupils form positive relationships and benefit from high-quality educational experiences.

## 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, the 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

13 March 2026

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

30. Inspection activities included

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a health and safety tour of the school site
- discussions with the proprietor and the chair of governors
- 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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