ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Progress monitoring inspection report

22 September 2026

Clevelands 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 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), 12; EYFS 3.5, 3.9, 3.80

1. The leadership of safeguarding is thorough. Leaders promote a robust safeguarding culture by ensuring that staff understand their collective role in promoting the pupils' welfare. Staff are effective in developing trusting relationships with the pupils so that they feel safe at school. Staff remain alert for changes in pupils' behaviour and ensure that pupils are comfortable to raise any concerns with adults.
2. Leaders provide effective safeguarding training, including at induction for new staff, so that staff are knowledgeable about how to report and record their concerns relating to pupils or adults working in the school. Staff receive regular updates about safeguarding, such as information about changes to regulatory guidance. This ensures that staff continue to build their understanding of potential safeguarding risks and how to manage and mitigate these.
3. Since the previous inspection, leaders have made effective changes to the way in which they maintain safeguarding records. They have utilised systems that were already embedded in practice in the registered early years setting and have made these available to staff in the school. Leaders now maintain appropriate electronic records of any concerns relating to pupils. They also maintain an appropriate log of low-level concerns relating to adults who work in the school. These records are kept securely, with suitable access given to members of the safeguarding team.
4. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding respond swiftly to concerns when they are raised. They keep appropriate records of their decisions, referrals and follow-up actions, and use these to monitor the support pupils receive. Leaders assess risks, including online safety and potentially harmful behaviour, and review their response when concerns arise. They work proactively with external agencies, seeking help from children's services or the police if required.
5. Leaders provide effective internet filtering and monitoring systems so that pupils and staff cannot access unsuitable material when they are using the internet at school. Pupils understand ways in which they can keep themselves safe online, such as not sharing personal information.
6. Leaders ensure that fire safety equipment is regularly tested and serviced. Staff take part in training for fire safety, including training for fire wardens. Leaders conduct fire drills, at least termly, so that pupils and staff know how to evacuate the building.
7. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that the required recommendations from the school's fire risk assessment have been actioned. They have commissioned a new fire risk assessment for both buildings to provide additional reassurance that they comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
8. The school meets the Standards.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 28(1)(b) and 28(1)(d); EYFS 3.80

9. Since the previous inspection, leaders have taken suitable action to ensure that toilets and washing facilities have an appropriate supply of hot and cold water. They now ensure that thermostatic mixing values are maintained and checked regularly so that hot water does not pose a scalding risk to pupils.

10. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

11. Leaders meet the requirement to publish an appropriate safeguarding policy on the school's website.

12. 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)

13. Leaders demonstrate that they actively promote pupils' wellbeing. They have drawn up and effectively implemented a detailed action plan that has enabled them to address all concerns from the previous inspection. As a result, the school meets the Standards consistently.

14. In order to improve transparency and accountability, leaders have now established thorough tracking and reporting systems that enable proprietors to have suitable oversight of leaders' work.

15. Proprietors have reorganised the governance and leadership structure to provide appropriate support and challenge for leaders. This ensures that leaders have the required knowledge, skills and understanding to fulfil their roles effectively.

16. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Clevelands Preparatory School
Department for Education number	350/6011
Registered early years number	2767189
Address	Clevelands Preparatory School 425 Chorley New Road Bolton Greater Manchester BL1 5DH
Phone number	01204 843898
Email address	office@clevelandsprepschool.co.uk
Website	www.clevelandsprepschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Alpha Schools (Holdings) Ltd
Chair	Mr Ali Khan
Headteacher	Mrs Caroline Greenwood
Age range	2 to 11 years
Number of pupils	87
Number of children in the early years registered setting	74
Date of previous inspection	13 March 2026

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Information about the school

17. Clevelands Preparatory School is a co-educational day school situated in Bolton, Greater Manchester. The school is a limited company and owned by Alpha Schools (Holdings) Ltd who provide oversight and governance of the school. The school's provision includes a registered early years setting for children aged six months to three years, which was not included in this inspection. The school comprises two further sections: a pre-prep, for children aged four to seven; and a prep section, for pupils aged seven to eleven. There are currently three children in the non-registered setting. They are taught in a class alongside pupils in Year 1 and Year 2. Since the previous inspection, the school is now led by an executive headteacher who took up her post June 2026.
18. The school does not currently have any pupils on roll who have special educational needs and/or disabilities or an education, health and care plan.
19. The school has identified a small number of pupils for whom English is an additional language.
20. 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 their 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, 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	22 September 2026

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
- a tour of the school site to review the premises and procedures for fire safety and water provision
- discussions with governors
- discussions with 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

CAP House, 9 – 12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

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