ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Progress monitoring inspection report

23 January 2026

Oakhill School

Wiswell Lane

Whalley

Clitheroe

BB7 9AF

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), 16; EYFS 3.4 to 3.7, 3.43 and 3.91

1. Leaders implement an appropriate safeguarding policy that meets statutory requirements and is reviewed annually to reflect current guidance and priorities. Governors oversee the implementation of the school's safeguarding arrangements effectively through regular visits and the monitoring of procedures.
2. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding, including the designated lead practitioner for the early years, possess the requisite training, expertise and authority to discharge their responsibilities efficiently. Safeguarding is managed competently and effectively.
3. A positive safeguarding culture is embedded throughout the school. All staff and governors receive regular training and updates, including with regard to the 'Prevent' duty and contextual risks related to the school's location, which is on the same site as a private, members only gym. Induction arrangements ensure that new staff are fully trained prior to commencing their roles at the school. Staff demonstrate a secure understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities, which include how to identify and report concerns relating to child-on-child abuse or the behaviour of adults working with pupils.
4. Concerns regarding safeguarding are thoroughly documented, including the actions taken and the rationale for those actions. The safeguarding team effectively engages with external agencies to ensure pupils receive timely and appropriate support, including by referring safeguarding concerns on to them when appropriate.
5. There are several mechanisms for pupils to raise any concerns they may have. Pupils are taught the importance of sharing worries with trusted adults in school and are confident that there are many staff members they can go to should they have any concerns.
6. The school teaches pupils how to keep themselves safe, including when online. A robust and effective internet filtering and monitoring system is in place. Leaders routinely review internet activity and address any potentially inappropriate usage.
7. Leaders ensure pupils are well supervised at all times. In the early years, rigorous procedures maintain full supervision, including at breaktimes, and uphold suitable staff-to-child ratios throughout the school day. Since the previous inspection, leaders have ensured that staff in the early years supervise children appropriately during breaktimes and when toilet visits are needed, and sit and eat with children at lunchtime, so that they are always within sight and hearing.
8. Since the previous inspection, the school has enhanced its risk management procedures. Leaders adopt a strategic approach to the assessment and management of risks related to pupils' wellbeing and safeguarding, including with regard to access to the school site. A standardised format for written risk assessments has been introduced. Risk assessments are completed to a suitable standard and are approved by a senior leader. Staff members have completed targeted training in risk management and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of risk factors, mitigation

strategies and control measures. Leaders undertake regular reviews of risk assessments to ensure their ongoing effectiveness and relevance.

9. The school meets the Standards.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraph 25; EYFS 3.79

10. Leaders maintain the premises and accommodation to a suitable standard. Following the previous inspection, leaders have strengthened site security. A perimeter security fence is being installed to prevent crossover between unknown leisure centre users and school personnel. Leaders have made vehicle access on site more stringent by requiring all drivers, including those visiting the leisure centre, to clearly display issued badges in their cars.

11. Since the previous inspection, leaders have put in place procedures to ensure that external doors are appropriately secured and locked at all times when not in use. They have increased key-code entry systems on external doors. Leaders have implemented tighter visitor entry protocols and arrangements for visitors to the school site. Staff consistently monitor all entry points via enhanced closed-circuit television to safeguard pupils and staff.

12. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

13. The school meets the requirements for providing parents with information about the arrangements for safeguarding. The safeguarding policy is published on the school's website.

14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34

15. Leaders and governors have effectively implemented a suitable action plan following the previous inspection.

16. Leaders have put in place suitable arrangements for the supervision of children in the early years, including when children are eating. Leaders have enhanced their understanding of the risks associated with access to the school site and strengthened the management of site security across the school. Consequently, access to the school premises and building is subject to more effective control throughout the school day.

17. Leaders and governors demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their roles so that the Standards and early years requirements are now met consistently. They fulfil their responsibilities effectively and actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

18. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Oakhill School
Department for Education number	888/6012
Registered early years number	EY312065
Registered charity number	1048514
Address	Oakhill School Wiswell Lane Whalley Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 9AF
Phone number	01254 823546
Email address	enquiries@oakhillschool.co.uk
Website	www.oakhillschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Oakhill College Ltd
Chair	Mr Anthony Baron
Headteacher	Mrs Jane Buttery
Age range	3 months to 16
Number of pupils	281
Number of children in the early years registered setting	145
Date of previous inspection	4 to 6 March 2025

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Information about the school

19. Oakhill School is an independent co-educational day school for pupils located in Clitheroe, Lancashire. The school is situated on the same site as a private, members only gym. It consists of a nursery, prep and senior school. The school's proprietor, Oakhill College Ltd, is supported by an advisory governing body.
20. There are seven children in the early years in one Reception class. A further 145 children are in the nursery, which is registered with Ofsted and provides for children under four years of age.
21. The school has identified 39 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Eight pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
22. The school has not identified any pupils who speak English as an additional language.
23. The school states that its aims are to develop spiritual awareness to nurture a sense of self-worth. It seeks to challenge pupils to achieve their individual potential, to inspire creative thinking and encourage independent learning, to instil mutual respect and understanding and teach the value of service to others.

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	23 January 2026

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

25. 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 for familiarisation and to look at site security and supervision in the early years
- discussion with a member 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**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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