



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

BOARDING WELFARE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

St Paul's School

Full Name of School	St Paul's School
DfE Number	318/6066
Registered Charity Number	1119619
Address	St Paul's School Lonsdale Road Barnes London SW13 9JT
Telephone Number	020 8748 9162
Fax Number	020 8746 5353
Email Address	hmsec@stpaulsschool.org.uk
High Master	Professor Mark Bailey
Chair of Governors	Mr John Robertson
Age Range	13 to 18
Total Number of Pupils	943
Gender of Pupils	Boys
Number of Day Pupils	Total: 921
Number of Boarders	Total: 22 Full: 9 Weekly: 13
Inspection Dates	15 Mar 2016 to 17 Mar 2016

PREFACE

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools belonging to the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Associations and reporting on compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, as amended. This inspection focuses on the school's compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the recommendations set out in the most recent statutory boarding inspection.

This inspection report follows the *ISI schedule* for intermediate inspections focusing primarily on compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (NMS). The inspection occurs over a period of two and a half continuous days in the school.

The inspection of the school is from an educational perspective and provides limited inspection of other aspects, although inspectors comment on any significant hazards or problems they encounter which have an adverse impact on children. The inspection does not include:

- (i) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (ii) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features;
- (iii) an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures;
- (iv) an in-depth investigation of the school's compliance with employment law.

Inspectors may be aware of individual safeguarding concerns, allegations and complaints as part of the inspection process. Such matters will not usually be referred to in the published report but will have been considered by the team in reaching their judgement.

INSPECTION EVIDENCE

The inspectors conducted formal interviews with boarders, held discussions with senior members of staff and a representative of the governors, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period and attended registration sessions, tutor meetings and assemblies. Inspectors visited the boarding house and the facilities for sick or injured pupils. The responses of parents and boarding pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Rodney Fox Reporting Inspector

Mr Tim Dewes Team Inspector for Boarding (Head of Department, HMC school)

CONTENTS

	Page
1 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL	1
2 SUMMARY	2
(i) Compliance with regulatory requirements	2
(ii) Recommendations for further improvement	2
(iii) Progress since the previous inspection	2
3 COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARDS	3
(a) Boarding provision and care	

1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

- 1.1 St Paul's School aims to provide an outstanding intellectual, spiritual and physical education which will prepare gifted boys for their future. It sets out to foster a culture of scholarship and to develop a spirit of enquiry and curiosity, through inspirational and responsive teaching; to treat the welfare of pupils as the highest priority; and to provide individual pastoral care that promotes independence whilst fostering respect, tolerance, kindness and service. The school is committed to honouring the founder's vision that it should be open to all academically eligible boys regardless of their circumstances, and to building substantive links with the local community. It is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, whose sole member is the Mercers' Company. The school is governed by its trustees.
- 1.2 The school was founded in 1509 by John Colet, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, who entrusted care of the school to the Mercers' Company. It educates boys aged between 13 and 18 years old. Since 1968 the school has occupied its present 45-acre site on the south bank of the River Thames at Barnes in south-west London, which it shares with its preparatory school, Colet Court. It is chiefly a day school, but also provides boarding education for about 30 boys who are accommodated in a purpose-built boarding house on the school campus, overlooking the river.
- 1.3 A theatre and drama centre was constructed and opened in 2014. The school dining hall, kitchen and energy centre were all demolished in 2015 to make way for a new teaching block, dining hall, kitchen and plant room which are under construction and due for completion in 2017. The school is currently using temporary dining facilities and kitchens. A significant area of development in the last two years has been in the areas of pastoral support and safeguarding the welfare of pupils.
- 1.4 Of the 943 boys in the school at the time of the inspection, 392 are in either Year 12 or Year 13. The school has identified 96 boys as having special educational needs and/or disabilities, 34 of whom receive specialist support. It also has 1 pupil with both an education, health and care plan, and a statement of special educational needs. English is spoken as an additional language (EAL) by 100 boys, almost all of whose English language needs are able to be supported in lessons by their teachers.
- 1.5 National Curriculum (NC) nomenclature is used throughout this report to refer to year groups in the school. The year group nomenclature used by the school and its NC equivalence are shown in the following table.

School	NC name
Fourth Form	Year 9
Fifth Form	Year 10
Sixth Form	Year 11
Lower Eighth	Year 12
Upper Eighth	Year 13

- 3.21 A suitable complaints policy is published for parents and prospective parents on the school website. Complaints are carefully recorded and monitored by senior staff to ensure that effective action can be taken to remedy any recurrent concerns. In practice, almost all complaints are resolved at the informal stage. [NMS 18]
- 3.22 House captains and prefects have clear role descriptions. They receive training on appointment, particularly in safeguarding the welfare of younger boarders. Their role largely involves assisting communication between boarders and staff, and they cannot issue sanctions. [NMS 19]
- 3.23 The school does not arrange lodgings for pupils on behalf of the parents. [NMS 20]