



Department
for Education

**Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE**

Direct line: [REDACTED]

The Proprietor
The Viking School
140 Church Road North
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE25 2QJ

[REDACTED]
Our ref: 925/6033

Date: 22 March 2018

Dear Proprietor

I refer to the inspection by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) that was carried out at the above school under section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 on 7 to 9 November 2017. You will see from the enclosed report that Ofsted noted serious regulatory failings.

Taking account of the report the Secretary of State is satisfied, pursuant to section 114(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, that any one or more of the independent school standards¹ is or are not being met in relation to the school.

In these circumstances I enclose a Notice, served by the Secretary of State for Education under section 114(5) of the 2008 Act, requiring an Action Plan which details the steps that will be taken to meet all of the standards set out in Annex 1 to the Notice and the time by which each step will be taken, to be submitted by 22 April 2018.

You are reminded that the independent school standards require that a copy of the inspection report is sent to parents and a copy is published on the school's website or, where no such website exists, is provided to parents on request. This will be checked at the next inspection.

The Action Plan must contain reasonable timescales for implementation within which the necessary action will be taken and it is expected that the implementation dates given in the Action Plan should not extend beyond 22 June 2018. A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan.

The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 22 April 2018. If this date is not met, the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the period during which you may appeal).

¹ [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014 \(SI 2014/3283\)](#)


I must warn you that the Secretary of State may reject an Action Plan, and in these circumstances the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the appeal period).

If an Action Plan is accepted, Ofsted may be asked to visit the school again to check that the school has fully implemented the plan and that it is fully meeting the independent school standards.

It is also noted in the inspection report that the school is failing to meet all the requirements of the ²Statutory Framework for the Early Foundation Stage. The school is required to address the failings listed in Annex 2.

You may wish to note that this letter, the enclosed Notice and Annexes will be published shortly on the Gov.uk website.

Yours faithfully


Independent Education and Boarding Team

²https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

SECTION 114(5) OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008

NOTICE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

IN RELATION TO

**The Viking School, 140 Church Road North, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2QK
("the School")**

WHEREAS


The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England³ –

- (i) has taken into account a report in respect of an inspection of the School by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills which was conducted on 7 to 9 November 2017; and
- (ii) is satisfied that the independent school standards, as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, specified in Annex 1 to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School.

NOW THEREFORE

In exercise of the power conferred upon him by section 114(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the Secretary of State serves the following Notice on the proprietor of the School:

- (1) the independent school standards set out in Annex 1 to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School; and
- (2) the proprietor of the School is required to submit an action plan⁴ to the Secretary of State specifying the steps that will be taken to meet the standards, and the time by which each step will be taken, on or before 22 April 2018.


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date 22 March 2018

³ The Secretary of State is required to keep a register of independent educational institutions in England under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. "Independent educational institution" is defined in section 92(1) of that Act as an independent school and an independent provider of part-time education. Independent providers of part-time education are not currently regulated so effectively the requirement under section 95(1) is for the Secretary of State to keep a register of independent schools.

⁴ An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX 1 TO NOTICE

**The Viking School, 140 Church Road North, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2QK
("the school")**

The following independent school standards, as prescribed in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, are not being met in relation to the school:

PART 1: Quality of education provided

1. The standards about the quality of education provided at the school are those contained in this Part.

2.(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if—

(a) the proprietor ensures that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively; and

(b) the written policy, plans and schemes of work—

(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan.

3. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school—

(a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;

(b) fosters in pupils self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves;

(c) involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;

(d) shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;

(e) demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught; and

(g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress.

PART 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

6. The standards about the welfare, health and safety of pupils at the school are those contained in this Part.

7. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

11. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy.

12. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005⁵.

16. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and

(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

PART 5: Premises of and accommodation at schools

22. The standards about the premises of and accommodation at the school are those contained in this Part.

25. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

PART 8: Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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—

(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;

(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and

(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c) “well-being” means well-being within the meaning of section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004⁶.

⁵ S.I. 2005/1541, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

⁶ 2004 c.31.

ANNEX 2 TO NOTICE

The Viking School, 140 Church Road North, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2QK
("the school")

The following requirements under the Early Years Foundation Stage are not being met in relation to the school:

In order to meet the requirements of section 3:

Safeguarding and welfare

3.2. Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. The requirements in this section explain what early years providers must do to: safeguard children; ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children; promote good health; manage behaviour; and maintain records, policies and procedures.

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment

Safety

3.54. 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).

3.55. Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and must have an emergency evacuation procedure. Providers must have appropriate fire detection and control equipment (for example, fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire blankets and/or fire extinguishers) which is in working order. Fire exits must be clearly identifiable, and fire doors must be free of obstruction and easily opened from the inside.

Risk assessment

3.64. Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks⁵³. Providers must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.

⁵³ Guidance on risk assessments, including where written ones may be required where five or more staff are employed, can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive.