



Department
for Education

Bishopsgate House

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Darlington

DL1 5QE

The Proprietor
Stanborough Secondary School
Stanborough Park
Cedarwood Drive
Watford
Hertfordshire WD25 9JT

Direct line: [REDACTED]
E-mail:
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Our ref: 919/6154

Date: 24 April 2019

Dear Proprietor

Stanborough Secondary School

I refer to the inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) that was carried out at the above school under section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 on 13 to 14 March 2019. You will see from the enclosed report that ISI 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 addition, the failings identified in the report on the boarding provision at the school constitute serious failings under the National Minimum Standards for Boarding schools, which you must have regard to under paragraph 8 of the independent school standards¹.

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 the Annex to the Notice and the time by which each step will be taken, to be submitted by 24 May 2019.

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

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

necessary action will be taken and it is expected that the implementation dates given in the Action Plan should not extend beyond 24 July 2019.

A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan. **Please can you ensure that you copy your action plan to ISI at the same time as sending it to me.**

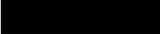
The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 24 May 2019. If this date is not met, the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the period during which you may appeal).

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, ISI 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.

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

Yours faithfully


Independent Education and Boarding Team

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

NOTICE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

**IN RELATION TO
Stanborough Secondary School, Stanborough Park, Cedarwood Drive, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD25 9JT
("the School")**

WHEREAS

The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England² –

(i) has taken into account a report in respect of an inspection of the School by the Independent Schools Inspectorate which was conducted on 13 to 14 March 2019; and

(ii) is satisfied that the independent school standards, as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, specified in the Annex 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 the Annex 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 plan³ 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 24 May 2019.


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date: 24 April 2019

² 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.

³ An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX TO NOTICE

**Stanborough Secondary School, Stanborough Park, Cedarwood Drive, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD25 9JT
("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

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

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;
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.

4. The standard in this paragraph is met where the proprietor ensures that a framework for pupil performance to be evaluated, by reference to the school's own aims as provided to parents or national norms, or to both, is in place.

PART 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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; and

(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

8. Where section 87(1) of the 1989 Act⁴ applies in relation to a school the standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders while they are accommodated at the school; and

(b) such arrangements have regard to the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools – that is to say:

Boarding schools standard 6 – Safety of boarders

- 6.3: The school ensures that 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 appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

Boarding schools standard 11 – Child protection

- 11.1: The school ensures that:
 - arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
 - such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State⁵.

Boarding schools standard 13 – Management and development of boarding

- 13.3 The school's leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role.
- 13.4 The school's leadership and management consistently fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the standards are met.
- 13.5 The school's leadership and management and governance actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.

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

⁴ Section 87(1) was amended by section 105 of the Care Standards Act 2000 (c.41) and section 1A was inserted by section 43 of the 2011 Act.

⁵ Keeping Children Safe In Education; and Working Together to Safeguard Children

(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 4: Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The standards about the suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors are those contained in this Part.

21. (1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor keeps a register which shows such of the information referred to in sub-paragraph (7) as is applicable.

(7) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation to each member of a body of persons named as the proprietor in post on 1st August 2007 who was appointed at any time before 1st May 2007—

(b) whether an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained, together with the date on which any check was completed or certificate obtained.

PART 5: Premises of and accommodation at schools

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

24. (1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils, including—

(b) accommodation for the short term care of sick and injured pupils, which includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility.

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.

[Explanatory note: (2) - for the purposes of paragraph 34(1)(c) “well-being” means well-being within the meaning of section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004.]