

**FOCUSED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

**ST PHILOMENA'S SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER 2016**



# School's Details

<b>Full Name of School</b>	St Philomena's School
<b>DfE Number</b>	881/6021
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	2968635
<b>Address</b>	St Philomena's School Hadleigh Road Frinton-on-Sea Essex CO13 9HQ
<b>Telephone Number</b>	01255 674492
<b>Email address</b>	generalenquiries@stphilomenas.com
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Barbara McKeown
<b>Chair of governors</b>	Mrs Josephine Geldard
<b>Age Range</b>	4 to 11
<b>Total Number of Pupils</b>	100
<b>Gender of Pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Pupils' Ability</b>	Data provided by the school indicates that the ability of the pupils is in line with the national average.
<b>Pupils' Needs</b>	The number of pupils requiring support for special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is 18. No pupil has a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan. No pupils have English as an additional language.
<b>History of the School</b>	Founded in 1926 in Frinton-on-Sea, in 1936 the school transferred to its present site and became a day school, having previously included boarders. In 1987, the school became an educational charity and the first lay headteacher, Mrs Josephine Geldard, who is now the Chair of Governors, was appointed.
<b>Ownership and Governing Structure</b>	Since 1987, governance has been undertaken by a governing body appointed by the trustees of the St Philomena's Educational Trust.
<b>School Structure</b>	The school has two sections: an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children aged 4 to 5, and a section for pupils aged 5 to 11, in six classes divided by age.

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<b>Inspection Dates</b>	11 to 12 October 2016
<b>Other Useful Information</b>	<p>i) Over the years, the school has acquired additional buildings and facilities and now occupies three adjacent detached houses.</p> <p>ii) A new headteacher was appointed in 2011.</p>

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# About the Inspection

The registration authority for independent schools is the Department for Education (DfE), which directs inspection according to a specified frequency or at any time where the DfE has particular concerns about a school. The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and reporting on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards (“the standards”) in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Accordingly, inspection records whether the school meets each of these standards, which are arranged in eight Parts, each of which is divided into separate paragraphs. The inspection of schools that have early years settings not requiring registration similarly records whether the school complies with key provisions of the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework, and for registered settings the full range of the Early Years Foundation Stage provisions is considered. Additionally, the inspection reports on the school’s accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. It comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the compliance action points set out in the school’s most recent statutory inspection. All association independent schools will have an inspection within three years from April 2016, in accordance with the Framework. The inspection may be of COMPLIANCE ONLY or of EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE depending on a number of factors, including findings from their most recent inspection. Schools judged not to meet the standards following their inspection may also be subject to a progress monitoring visit before their next routine inspection. The progress monitoring visit will judge whether the school has taken the necessary action to meet any unmet standards and any concerns about quality identified at their previous inspection.

**This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and, as such, reports only on the school’s compliance with the standards.** The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated in the relevant section of the report and the school is required to take the actions specified. In this focused compliance inspection, key regulations and standards have been inspected in detail. These are the regulations on safeguarding; behaviour, measures to guard against bullying; arrangements for pupils’ health and safety; arrangements to check the suitability of staff; the provision of information to parents; the handling of parents’ complaints; and other related aspects of leadership and management. In addition, the standards relating to provision for SEND, behaviour, and special educational needs provision and the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 were also included. The remaining standards will be deemed to continue to be met unless evidence to the contrary is found.

The inspection does not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as:

- (i) the school’s aims;
- (ii) an exhaustive health and safety audit;
- (iii) compliance with data protection requirements;
- (iv) an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features;
- (v) contractual arrangements with parents;
- (vi) an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Where necessary, National Curriculum nomenclature is used to refer to year groups. Links to the full regulations and requirements can be found here: [The Independent School Standards Regulations](#), [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#).

## SUMMARY EVALUATION

**The school meets the standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and associated requirements and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.**

### PART 1

#### Quality of education provided

The school uses its own framework to determine attainment, instead of the national framework.

The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupil performance is in place.

**The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1 - 4] are met.**

### PART 2

#### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.

**The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.**

### PART 3

#### Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.

**The standards relating to welfare, health and safety [paragraphs 6 -16], the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met.**

## **PART 4**

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors and a register is kept as required.

**The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17-21] are met.**

## **PART 5**

### **Premises of and accommodation at schools**

Suitable toilet facilities for pupils and appropriate accommodation for their medical needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

**The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22 – 31] are met.**

## **PART 6**

### **Provision of information**

A range of information is variously published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. These include details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year. They also include particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

**The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.**

## **PART 7**

### **Manner in which complaints are handled**

Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

**The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.**

## **PART 8**

### **Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

**The standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] is met.**

# About the inspection

The inspectors conducted formal interviews with pupils. They held discussions with members of staff and with governors. Inspectors visited the facilities for sick or injured pupils. The responses of parents and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined regulatory documentation made available by the school.

## **Inspectors**

Mrs Ruth McFarlane

Reporting Inspector

Mr Justin Spanswick

Compliance Team Inspector (Head, ISA school)