



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

**REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT
FOR SCHOOLS WITH RESIDENTIAL PROVISION**

WELBECK THE DEFENCE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 2018



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SCHOOL'S DETAILS

College	Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College			
DfE number	855/8301			
Address	Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College Forest Road Woodhouse Loughborough Leicestershire LE12 8WD			
Telephone number	01509 891712			
Email address	pa@dsfc.ac.uk			
Principal	Mr Peter Middleton			
Chair of governors	Vice-Admiral Duncan Potts CB			
Age range	16 to 18			
Number of pupils on roll	309			
	Boys	223	Girls	86
	Day pupils	0	Boarders	309
	Seniors	0	Sixth Form	309
Inspection dates	7 to 8 February 2018			

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About the school

- 1.1 Welbeck College is an independent full boarding school for boys and girls aged between 16 and 18. Founded in 1953, as the Army's Sixth Form College, it moved to its present purpose-built site in 2005, and began admitting students from all three armed-services and the Ministry of Defence technical branch.
- 1.2 The college is a Ministry of Defence (MOD) institution for which the Defence Academy is responsible. It is legally operated on their behalf as a Public Private Partnership by Minerva Ltd. It has an advisory board of governors, constituted of senior officers, civil servants, directors of Minerva and civilians.
- 1.3 The college is selective, and pupils must satisfy the single Service Selection Boards and minimum academic requirements; a small number of private pupils are admitted annually.

What the school seeks to do

- 1.4 The college aims to inspire each pupil to achieve the highest possible standards in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as fostering a range of core values, so that there are equipped for university and their careers within Defence.

About the pupils

- 1.5 Pupils come from very diverse backgrounds from across the United Kingdom. Nationally standardised test data provided by the college indicate that the ability of its pupils is above average for those in sixth form-maintained schools for the specialist subjects that are required for entry; although its unique curriculum makes direct comparison difficult. The college has identified 21 pupils as having special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND), which include dyslexia and dyspraxia, all of whom receive additional specialist help. One pupil has an education, health and care plan. There are no pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL). Data used by the college has identified 15 pupils as being the most able in the college's population, and the curriculum is modified for them.

2. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

Preface

This college is a Ministry of Defence (MOD) institution and is part of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. Ultimate responsibility rests with the Secretary of State for Defence, who is represented by the Director General of the Defence Academy.

However, the college has requested that it continues to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspecting schools 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. 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.

This inspection also contains specific judgements on the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools ('boarding NMS'). It also comments on the progress made by the school in meeting the compliance action points set out in the most recent statutory boarding inspection and it judges the extent to which the school currently meets the boarding NMS. It identifies any standards which the school does not meet and requires action to meet them. Findings are distributed across sections relating to the eight Parts of the standards.

The college has agreed that it will have an inspection within three years from April 2016, in accordance with the Framework and DfE requirements. The inspection may be of COMPLIANCE ONLY or a combined inspection 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, including the boarding NMS, 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 un-met standards identified at their previous inspection.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school's compliance with the standards, including the boarding NMS. 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.

Inspections do not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as: an exhaustive health and safety audit; compliance with data protection requirements; an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features; contractual arrangements with parents; an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

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 specifically in published reports in this document but will have been considered by the team in reaching its judgements.

Links to the full regulations and requirements can be found here: [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), [National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools](#).

Key findings

- 2.1 The school meets the standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015 and associated requirements, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

PART 1 – Quality of education provided

- 2.2 A-level results in the years 2014 to 2016 have been above the national average for sixth formers in maintained schools.
- 2.3 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 pupils' performance is in place.
- 2.4 **The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.**

PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- 2.5 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens. Boarders' views are actively encouraged, and their opinions and concerns are appropriately considered by staff. Any prefect system operating in the school is suitably managed.
- 2.6 **The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] and NMS 17 and 19 are met.**

PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 An appropriate induction process for pupils new to boarding is implemented, and suitable provision is made for boarders' medical and health care, their food and drink and for managing boarders' laundry and possessions. Boarders have suitable contact with friends and family and access to a programme of activities. Boarding staff are appropriately trained and deployed.
- 2.9 **The standards relating to welfare, health and safety [paragraphs 6–16], the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996, and NMS 2–4, 6–12, 15 and 16 are met.**

PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- 2.10 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, and proprietors and a register is kept as required. Visitors to boarding accommodation are appropriately supervised.
- 2.11 **The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17,18, 20, 21] and NMS 14 are met.**

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

2.12 Suitable toilet, changing and showering 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 free time. Boarding accommodation is adequate for the needs of all boarders, and safeguards and promotes their welfare.

2.13 The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] and NMS 5 are met.

PART 6 – Provision of information

2.14 A range of information is variously published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the relevant government department. 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, and the provision for those with education, health and care plans. They also include particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, and its results in public examinations, 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. A suitable statement of boarding principles and practice is published by the school. The requirement to provide information on English as an additional language (EAL), is not applicable for this school.

2.15 The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] and statement of boarding principles [NMS 1] are met.

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

2.16 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, and identifying those relating to the boarding provision.

2.17 The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] and NMS 18 are met.

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.18 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. Appropriate leadership and management of boarding ensure that the required policies and records are maintained and effectively monitored.

2.19 The standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] and NMS 13 are met.

3. INSPECTION EVIDENCE

- 3.1 The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff, chair of governors and the safeguarding link governor, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended registration headcounts. Inspectors visited boarding houses and the learning support and educational resource areas. The responses of parents and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Geoffrey Marston	Reporting inspector
Mrs Adele Wright	Compliance team inspector (Deputy head, HMC school)
Mrs Elizabeth Bassett	Team inspector for boarding (Housemistress, HMC school)
Mrs Elizabeth Worthington	Team inspector for boarding (Senior deputy head, HMC school)