

# Material change inspection report

30 April 2026

## **King Edward VI High School for Girls**

Edgbaston Park Road

Birmingham

B15 2UB

The Independent Schools Inspectorate is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect association independent schools in England. Our inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met, collectively referred to in this report as ‘the Standards’.

## Inspection outcome

The school has submitted a material change request to increase the maximum number of pupils from 700 to 750 from 1 September 2026.

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is recommended that the material change be approved.

## Inspection findings

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a) and (b), 11, 12, 14, 16(a) and (b)

1. Safeguarding arrangements are implemented effectively. Leaders demonstrate secure knowledge and understanding of statutory safeguarding requirements and local protocols. Staff collaborate closely with the wider King Edward VI Foundation safeguarding network and the local authority, as required. Pupils are able to identify a range of staff whom they are able to approach if they have a worry or concern. Staff listen to pupils and respond appropriately to any concerns that they raise.
2. All members of the safeguarding team are suitably trained for their roles. Staff receive appropriate training and are regularly briefed on safeguarding matters, so that they know how to recognise, report and record safeguarding concerns. Staff are knowledgeable about child protection procedures and contextual risks, including those relating to online safety. The school submits an appropriate annual audit on safeguarding to the local authority. Further assurance in support of its management of safeguarding processes and procedures is obtained through an externally commissioned annual safeguarding audit. The safeguarding team has sufficient capacity to be able to meet the needs of the proposed maximum number of pupils.
3. Leaders ensure that effective health and safety policies are implemented across the school. Senior school staff work closely together with the school and governing board health and safety committees to check that the relevant health and safety requirements are complied with. A suitable system is used for reporting maintenance requirements and any potential health and safety concerns that need to be prioritised. The current health and safety arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed increase in pupil numbers takes place.
4. The school meets the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The school's fire safety policy, procedures and fire risk assessments are reviewed annually. Regular fire evacuation drills are in place to ensure staff and pupils are familiar with what to do in the event of a fire. All school buildings are fitted with fire alarm and fire safety systems. There is an annual service arrangement in place with external fire engineers. The current arrangements are likely to be suitable once the proposed material change takes place.
5. Supervision of pupils of all age groups is effective. This includes the supervision of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), so that all pupils can fully participate in school life. Suitably trained staff support and monitor pupils during arrival and departure times, breaktime and lunchtime periods, on external school trips and when they are using the school's recreation and sports facilities. In consideration of the proposed increase in pupil numbers, leaders are making a number of additional staff appointments, particularly to supplement pastoral support arrangements

across the school. Supervisory arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed increase in pupil numbers takes place.

6. Leaders have in place an efficient and effective approach to managing risk to ensure the welfare of all pupils in the school. An appropriate risk assessment policy is implemented effectively. All staff have received training in assessing risk for their respective areas and for organising school outings, including overseas trips. Risk assessments identify the likelihood of potential risks and provide suitable measures to mitigate them. Additionally, where required, appropriate welfare risk assessments are produced to support more vulnerable pupils. Senior leaders review and sign off all risk assessments, including those relating to educational trips both in the UK and overseas. Through the health and safety committee, governance provides suitable oversight of the risk assessment process and its implementation. The current arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed increase in pupil numbers takes place.
7. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

#### **Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors**

ISSR paragraphs 18, 19, 20, 21

8. All the required safer recruitment checks on staff and members of the governing board are undertaken and completed before individuals take up their positions at the school. The school maintains a comprehensive and accurate single central record of appointments (SCR), which includes the dates on which the checks have been completed. Senior leaders and members of the governing board regularly conduct checks on the SCR to ensure its continued suitability.
9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

#### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

ISSR paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

10. Suitable toilet, washing and changing facilities are available to all pupils in the school. Suitable showering and changing facilities are provided for all pupils when taking part in physical education. Some shared teaching with male pupils from the linked school has prompted the addition of extra gender-specific toilet and washing facilities, in both schools, to help facilitate this provision. There are sufficient toilet, washing and changing facilities to cater for the proposed maximum number of pupils. Furthermore, the addition of a new science laboratory and revised seating arrangements in the dining hall have increased the number of pupils that these areas can cater for.
11. The school's medical provision is effective and consists of a medical room, staffed by a qualified nurse, together with a washroom facility, which has access to separate toilet and washing facilities. These facilities are for the exclusive use of pupils who are unwell. An appropriate number of school staff are trained in first aid. The school's medical facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed maximum number of pupils.
12. Routine and regular maintenance of the premises is systematically and rigorously undertaken. Governors provide suitable oversight and management of maintenance and refurbishment, supported by the school's health and safety committee and commissioned input from external

providers. Maintenance arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.

13. Suitable acoustic and lighting arrangements and water supplies are in place throughout the school, including in newly refurbished sixth-form social areas. Appropriate sound installation is provided, where required, including in the performing arts centre and music practice rooms, which are fitted with suitable acoustic panelling. The appropriate external lighting is checked regularly. There is ready access to drinking fountains for pupils.
14. Pupils of all ages have direct access to suitable and appropriate spaces and facilities for physical education, recreation and relaxation. These include a sports hall, swimming pool and fitness centre; a performing arts centre, which is jointly shared with the school for male pupils; tennis courts; a large hard-surface play area and grass playing fields. The size and variety of the current provision means that pupils can be divided up into age-specific groups, as required. The current outdoor space and facilities are suitable to meet the needs of the projected increase in the school's pupil population.
15. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

#### **Part 6. Provision of information**

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

16. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website and are accessible to parents.
17. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standard if the material change is implemented.

#### **Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools**

ISSR paragraph 34

18. Senior leaders and governors manage welfare and safeguarding arrangements effectively and, together, conduct regular audits to ensure ongoing compliance with the required Standards. Governors are regular visitors to the school and spend time consulting with staff and pupils to assure themselves that the pupils' welfare is appropriately catered for. Governors ensure that policies and procedures are appropriate and relevant to the school's needs and that they are effectively implemented by staff.
19. Senior leaders and governors have planned effectively for the proposed material change. There is a comprehensive and appropriate risk management plan to identify and mitigate the proposed increase in the maximum number of pupils.
20. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

## School details

<b>School</b>	King Edward VI High School for Girls
<b>Department for Education number</b>	330/6077
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1159413
<b>Address</b>	King Edward VI High School for Girls Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham B15 2UB
<b>Phone number</b>	0121 472 1834
<b>Email address</b>	enquiries@kehs.org.uk
<b>Website</b>	www.kehs.org.uk
<b>Proprietor</b>	The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham
<b>Foundation Chair</b>	Professor Hywel Thomas
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Kirsty von Malaisé
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 19
<b>Number of pupils</b>	665
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	3 to 5 October 2023

## Information about the school

21. King Edward VI High School for Girls is an independent day school for female pupils located in Birmingham. It consists of a senior school, which includes a sixth form. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors and is one of a number of schools within the King Edward VI Foundation in the city. Since the previous inspection, the headteacher has become headteacher of both King Edward VI High School for Girls and King Edward's School, which is an independent day school for male pupils located on the same campus. The current chair of governors was appointed in July 2024.
22. The school has identified 82 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
23. The school has identified 37 pupils who speak English as an additional language.
24. The school states that its aims are to offer a rich and ambitious programme of academic, co-curricular and service opportunities in a stimulating and supportive environment. It seeks to do this by fostering self-reflective and grounded individuals with a strong moral ethic, and to celebrate the diversity of the community, cherishing both difference and all that unites its pupils.

## Purpose of the material change

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the Department for Education to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the Independent School Standards if the material change is implemented.

## Inspection details

### Inspection dates

30 April 2026

25. One reporting inspector visited the school for one day.

26. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- tour of the school site to view the school buildings and accommodation
- discussions with the chair of governors
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders, managers and other members of staff
- discussions with pupils.

### How are association independent schools in England inspected?

- The Department for Education is the regulator for independent schools in England.
- ISI is approved by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect independent schools in England, which are members of associations in membership of the Independent Schools Council.
- ISI inspections report to the Department for Education on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards, the EYFS statutory framework requirements, the National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and any other relevant Standards are met.
- For more information, please visit **[www.isi.net](http://www.isi.net)**.

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