

Progress monitoring inspection report

24 March 2026

Read School

Drax

Selby

YO8 8NL

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 meets all the relevant Standards that were considered during this inspection.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b) and 8(a) and 8(b); NMS 8.1 and 19.1; EYFS 3.5, 3.9, 3.13 and 3.20

1. Leaders implement effective safeguarding arrangements which reflect current statutory guidance. These include the required checks on the suitability of staff and other adults who are in contact with pupils.
2. Since the previous inspection, leaders have reviewed safer recruitment procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of current statutory guidance. Staff are suitably trained and follow these procedures in practice, including obtaining suitable and sufficient references for new staff and checking for any prohibition from teaching or the management of schools.
3. Governors visit the school regularly to meet with safeguarding leaders, staff and pupils, as well as receiving regular safeguarding reports at their meetings. Governors monitor recent staff appointments and review the single central record of appointments (SCR) and the supporting documentation in staff files. This provides them with an informed oversight of leaders' work, and assurance that the required safer recruitment checks are undertaken in a timely manner.
4. The safeguarding leadership team has recently been restructured. There is suitable coverage of all areas of school, including the boarding house and the early years setting. Leaders with designated safeguarding responsibilities respond promptly and appropriately to any safeguarding concerns that arise. They seek advice from local safeguarding partners, such as the local authority designated officer (LADO) and children's services, and refer safeguarding concerns to them when required. They work effectively with these agencies to support the wellbeing of pupils.
5. Staff are suitably trained to meet pupils' safeguarding needs, in line with current statutory and local requirements. New staff undergo an induction process so that they understand their safeguarding responsibilities. Staff understand how to respond when safeguarding concerns arise and report concerns in a timely and appropriate way.
6. Leaders keep detailed records of safeguarding concerns, along with the actions taken in response. There are suitable arrangements in place for the handling of allegations or low-level concerns about adults. Staff are alert to safeguarding risks, including those relating to radicalisation and extremism and child-on-child abuse. Leaders liaise with the local authority to ensure support is in place for considerations such as pupils' mental health and school attendance, when required.
7. Suitable internet filtering and monitoring systems and procedures are in place. These systems are tested regularly. Members of the safeguarding team take prompt action to address any concerns which arise.
8. Leaders listen to pupils' views. Pupils can readily name trusted adults they can go to if they wish to share concerns.
9. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

10. A suitable safeguarding policy is made available on the school's website. It reflects current statutory guidance and has been updated to include the details of recent changes to the safeguarding leadership team.
11. The school meets the Standard.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34; NMS 2.1, 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5

12. Leaders have successfully implemented the action plan to meet the Standards which were not met at the previous inspection. Leaders have ensured that relevant staff are trained to undertake the required safer recruitment checks on staff and other adults, in order to safeguard pupils. Leaders monitor the appointment process carefully so that new staff are not allowed to come into contact with pupils until all checks are satisfactorily completed.
13. Governors have undergone recent training, which helps enable them to provide informed oversight and challenge leaders' work in this area. Governors ensure that leaders have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil their responsibilities and actively promote the wellbeing of pupils.
14. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Read School
Department for Education number	815/6019
Registered charity number	529675
Address	Read School Drax Selby North Yorkshire YO8 8NL
Phone number	01757 618248
Email address	enquiries@readschool.co.uk
Website	www.readschool.co.uk
Proprietor	The Read School, Drax, Trustee Limited
Chair	Mrs Lisa Dukes
Headteacher	Mrs Ruth Ainley
Age range	4 to 18
Number of pupils	243
Number of boarding pupils	21
Date of previous inspection	30 September to 2 October 2025

Information about the school

15. Read School is a co-educational day and boarding school, located in Drax village near Selby, North Yorkshire. It is a registered charity overseen by a board of governors.
16. There are two boarding houses, one for male pupils and one for female pupils.
17. There are five children in the early years in one Reception class.
18. The school has identified 79 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities, 21 of whom have an education, health and care plan.
19. The school has identified 18 pupils as speaking English as an additional language.
20. The school states its aims are to help each pupil to develop their potential in both academic and extra-curricular fields through encouragement, understanding and a close working relationship between pupils, staff and parents. It seeks for pupils to grow up to be confident, caring, honest and responsible young people, capable of making a positive contribution to the society in which they live and work.

Purpose of the progress monitoring inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. This inspection was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection which was carried out at the request of the Department for Education. The purpose of this inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the Independent School Standards and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

24 March 2026

21. One reporting inspector and an accompanying inspector visited the school for one day.

22. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- discussions with members of the governing body
- discussions with the headteacher, school leaders 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**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

CAP House, 9-12 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HA

For more information, please visit isi.net