

Progress monitoring inspection report

25 February 2026

Ghyll Royd School

Greystone Manor
Ilkley Road
Burley-in-Wharfdale
Ilkley
LS29 7HW

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.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 15, 16(a) and 16(b); EYFS 3.13, 3.42, 3.63, 3.79, 3.80, 3.91

1. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy, which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and reflects statutory guidance.
2. Leaders have improved their systems for undertaking pre-employment checks on staff before they work with pupils. Information is correctly recorded on the single central record (SCR). Leaders are knowledgeable and skilled in safer recruitment. Governors' monitoring provides effective oversight of leaders' work. Leaders ensure that members of the safeguarding team receive regular training and have the knowledge to fulfil their roles effectively. Members of the safeguarding team, including in the early years, carry out their roles effectively.
3. Leaders promote a positive safeguarding culture. New members of staff receive comprehensive safeguarding training before they take up their role within the school. All staff receive ongoing safeguarding training and relevant updates, including that related to the 'Prevent' duty and contextual safeguarding risks. Staff report any concerns they have about pupils or about adults working in the school, including self-referral. They seek further clarification when needed from leaders in the school.
4. The safeguarding team keeps detailed records of any concerns and the reasons for their decisions and the actions they take. Leaders liaise effectively with external professionals and agencies. Pupils access effective support through the school's pastoral system.
5. The governors take part in regular safeguarding training and understand their responsibility in relation to statutory requirements. The governor with responsibility for safeguarding visits the school regularly and undertakes a range of checks on the effectiveness of leaders' work. The annual audit and reports to governor meetings give assurance that the arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
6. Pupils are taught about staying safe as part of the curriculum, including how to keep themselves and others safe when using the internet. Pupils are knowledgeable about the risks of sharing information and how to report inappropriate online behaviour. Appropriate systems are in place to filter and monitor the pupils' internet access while at school. These systems are tested on a regular basis.
7. Leaders have improved their oversight and arrangements related to health and safety. Policies are reviewed annually and governors provide ongoing oversight of the school's health and safety procedures. Leaders ensure that regulatory testing of equipment and services is carried out in a timely manner, including water, gas and asbestos management. Records of tests are kept systematically. There is appropriate safe storage of equipment and harmful substances. Leaders ensure that they fulfil their legal responsibilities.
8. Leaders have improved their systems and oversight related to fire safety. The school has an up-to-date fire risk assessment. Leaders make prompt checks on fire safety equipment. Fire emergency routes are clearly marked and evacuation practices are carried out on a termly basis. Leaders ensure that they fulfil their obligations related to fire safety.
9. Leaders have increased measures so that pupils are appropriately supervised. Staff are visible at drop-off and pick-up times and help to manage safe movement on the site. Teachers supervise

pupils well during break and lunchtimes. Leaders ensure that required child-to-staff ratios are maintained in the early years and children are appropriately supervised during snack time. Leaders take appropriate action to ensure that staff are appropriately trained.

10. A suitable attendance policy is published on the school's website. Leaders ensure admission and attendance registers reflect current statutory guidance, including in the accurate use of attendance coding. Designated staff and leaders regularly review attendance information and take appropriate action as and when required. The local authority is informed of all pupils who join or leave the school at non-standard transition points.
11. The risk assessment policy and school's risk register are up to date and appropriate. Leaders and governors identify and manage potential risks effectively. There are a range of detailed and effectively implemented risk assessments in place, including those related to the premises, management of harmful substances, and all on-site and off-site activities. Governors provide effective oversight of policies and processes related to identifying and mitigating risk. Leaders review risk assessments regularly and take appropriate actions so that they remain suitable.
12. The school meets the Standards

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR Paragraph 25; EYFS 3.79, 3.80

13. Leaders have established appropriate systems to maintain the quality of the premises. They routinely monitor the premises and act in a timely manner to address any identified issues. All required health and safety, fire and risk assessment checks are carried out appropriately. Checks are logged and recorded in an orderly manner. The premises are maintained to a suitable standard, including in the early years.
14. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR Paragraph 32(1)(c)

15. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are available to parents through the school's website.
16. The school meets the Standards.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR Paragraph 34 (1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)

17. Following the previous inspection, governors created an action plan that outlined how they were going to address the previously unmet Standards and EYFS requirements. The original plan was not sufficiently detailed in some areas about how governors were going to fully address the weaknesses identified in the previous inspection. Governors and leaders have collectively reviewed and implemented a much improved action plan.
18. Governors have taken effective action since the previous inspection to improve their oversight of leaders' knowledge, skills and actions. They now have a thorough understanding of leaders' work including that related to attendance, health and safety. Governors meet with pupils, review policies and procedures, scrutinise reports and documentation. They meet regularly with the leaders,

including those responsible for safeguarding, to ensure that the arrangements are effective, systems thoroughly implemented and the wellbeing of pupils actively promoted and prioritised in leaders' work. They use external specialist guidance, for example related to health and safety, where required.

19. Leaders and governors have sufficient knowledge and skills appropriate to their role. Collectively they ensure that the requirements of the Standards are met consistently.
20. The school meets the Standards.

School details

School	Ghyll Royd School
Department for Education number	380/6017
Registered charity number	1070235
Address	Ghyll Royd School Greystone Manor Ilkley Road Burley-in-Wharfdale Ilkley West Yorkshire LS29 7HW
Phone number	01943 865575
Email address	information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk
Website	www.ghyllroydschool.co.uk
Proprietor	Ghyll Royd School
Chair	Mr David Cunningham
Headteacher	Mr Hadley Nicholson
Age range	2 to 11
Number of pupils	121
Date of previous inspection	16 to 18 September 2025

Information about the school

21. Ghyll Royd School is a co-educational day school located near Ilkley in West Yorkshire. The school is a charitable trust where trustees take on roles on a board of governors. The headteacher took up his post in February 2026, after deputising as headteacher from June 2025.
22. The inspection in September 2025 identified unmet Standards and EYFS requirements. The school submitted an action plan to the DfE in December 2025 that outlined how they intended to address the unmet requirements. This action plan was deemed unsatisfactory in December 2025.
23. There are 35 children in the early years comprising three Nursery classes and one Reception class.
24. The school has identified nine pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
25. The school has identified a very small number of pupils for whom English is an additional language.
26. The school states that its aims is to provide a nurturing, highly engaging educational environment in which each child is valued and encouraged to reach their potential.

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, Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and any other requirements that the school was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection.

Inspection details

Inspection date

25 February 2026

27. Two reporting inspectors visited the school for one day.

28. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a tour of the school site
- 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**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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