

Bishop Wordsworth's Church of England Grammar School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

Unique reference number (URN): 136500

Focused monitoring inspection report:

29 and 30 April 2026

The inspection was carried out because concerns had been raised with Ofsted about the safeguarding culture of the school. This meant that pupils may have been at risk of harm. The inspection sought to examine how leaders and those responsible for governance ensure that the culture and practices of the school keep pupils safe.

Inspectors found no evidence to substantiate the concerns about pupil safety or wellbeing.

During the focused monitoring inspection, inspectors considered the following evaluation areas:

- Safeguarding
- Leadership and governance

Safeguarding standards met

The safeguarding standards are met. This means that leaders and/or those responsible for governance and oversight fulfil their responsibilities and have established an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and concerns are actively identified, acted upon and managed. As a result, children are made safer and feel safe.

Leadership and governance

The school's governing body commissioned an independent review of safeguarding in 2025. This supported the interim headteacher and the designated safeguarding lead when taking up their posts. Leaders acted swiftly to address the areas that needed further strengthening. For example, they enhanced training for staff leading school trips to support them in carrying out appropriate risk assessments before visits take place.

Leaders have ensured that all staff have undertaken additional safeguarding training that is relevant to their roles. Staff recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. They regularly review safeguarding cases and scenarios to develop their understanding. Leaders are reflective about the decisions that they make. They keep the safety and wellbeing of pupils at the heart of their improvement plans.

Pupils are proud of their school and have trusted adults to talk to if they have any concerns. Leaders increasingly involve pupils in making decisions about the school. For example, discussing potential changes with the student council and student leaders. However, more pupils would like to share their views and make suggestions. Leaders have ensured that students joining the sixth form are well supported to become members of the school community. This means that pupils across year groups feel safe and are confident to raise any worries that they might have.

Leaders have reviewed and updated policies such as those for staff conduct and safeguarding. While some policies need further minor refinement, this has provided clarity to staff about expectations. Staff have confidence to report any safeguarding concerns about pupils or other adults to senior leaders and governors. Leaders and governors are clear about their statutory responsibilities to investigate concerns raised, including working with other agencies when required.

About this inspection

This inspection was conducted under section 8(2) of the Education Act 2005 and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for focused monitoring inspections. The inspection was carried out because concerns had been raised with Ofsted.

The inspection team spoke to a selection of pupils from each year group. They also spoke with teachers and support staff, middle and senior leaders and those responsible for governance. Inspectors reviewed the schools' published policies relating to safeguarding, educational visits, recruitment and staff conduct. They scrutinised records of safeguarding related incidents. This included reviewing the actions that leaders and those responsible for governance took in response.

Lead inspector

Sara Berry His Majesty's Inspector

Team inspector

Rachel Hesketh His Majesty's Inspector

About this school

School capacity 1200

Number of pupils on roll 1189

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