

# Progress monitoring inspection report

18 November 2025

## **Southbank International School (Westminster)**

63–65 Portland Place

London

W1B 1QR

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), 7(b), 15

1. The school has an appropriate safeguarding policy which reflects the latest statutory guidance and provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. Leaders ensure that provision for safeguarding pupils is implemented effectively and the wellbeing of pupils is prioritised.
2. Safeguarding leaders are suitably trained. They manage staff training needs effectively, providing appropriate induction training as well as annual refresher sessions for all staff. These are augmented by regular updates in response to new information. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding ensure that staff are also trained to recognise and report contextual safeguarding risks for pupils at the school. Staff understand the school's code of conduct. They also recognise the importance of reporting any concerns about the behaviour of adults in school and know how to do this. A suitable record of low-level concerns is maintained and leaders take appropriate action in response to concerns.
3. Leaders with responsibility for safeguarding ensure that pupils know how to report concerns. Pupils make good use of the reporting channels available to them. Staff take appropriate action and safeguarding leaders meet regularly to monitor pupils who may be at risk of harm. The school assesses risks around vulnerable pupils carefully. Safeguarding leaders have the appropriate authority within the school to carry out their role effectively. They keep suitable records, liaise effectively with external agencies and ensure appropriate measures are in place to support pupils.
4. Pupils are well educated about how to stay safe online. The school implements effective internet filtering and monitoring systems, which are tested regularly. Leaders follow up any concerns promptly so that pupils are kept safe.
5. The proprietor ensures that governors are well trained and that they provide effective oversight of safeguarding. The safeguarding governor is in regular contact with leaders responsible for safeguarding and provides support as well as suitable challenge to ensure effective safeguarding practices. Policies and procedures are reviewed by governors at least annually. Governors ask pertinent questions to inform their understanding when reviewing procedures.
6. Staff are appropriately trained in safer recruitment practice to support the safeguarding of pupils. The school ensures that all required checks on staff and governors are carried out before taking up appointment.
7. Admissions and attendance registers for pupils are suitably maintained. The school reports to the local authority on pupil attendance as required and informs them of joiners and leavers to the school at non-standard transition points. The school's attendance policy encourages punctuality and full participation in school life. Since the previous inspection, leaders have worked successfully to emphasise the benefits of high attendance and foster a school culture which promotes this. Absence is followed up quickly. Where needed, pupils are provided with timely support to help them attend. Leaders understand the importance of working closely with relevant external agencies when there are concerns about pupils' absence.

8. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

9. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are on the school website.
10. The school meets the Standards.

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

ISSR paragraph 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)

11. Leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that they actively promote the wellbeing of pupils. Since the previous inspection, leaders have made sure that a suitable attendance policy is in place and a school attendance champion has been appointed. Leaders ensure that pupil attendance is accurately recorded and any absences followed up swiftly. Governors ensure that school policies are effectively implemented and carefully monitor arrangements for safeguarding and welfare.
12. Since the previous inspection, supported by governors, leaders have reviewed attendance procedures and practice and provided training to ensure that all staff involved in admissions and attendance procedures perform their duties effectively and in accordance with current legislation. Staff understand the link between the importance of attendance and pupils' wellbeing. Leaders and managers regularly reinforce the importance of attendance to both pupils and parents.
13. The school meets the Standards.

## School details

<b>School</b>	Southbank International School Westminster
<b>Department for Education number</b>	213/6003
<b>Address</b>	Southbank International School Westminster 63–65 Portland Place London W1B 1QR
<b>Phone number</b>	020 7436 9699
<b>Email address</b>	westminster@southbank.org
<b>Website</b>	www.southbank.org
<b>Proprietor</b>	Cognita Schools Ltd
<b>Chair</b>	Michael Drake
<b>Headteacher</b>	Angela Liu
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 18
<b>Number of pupils</b>	466
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	25 to 27 March 2025

## Information about the school

14. Southbank international School Westminster is an independent co-educational day school. It is one of a family of three Southbank International schools, the other two being in Kensington and Hampstead, which are for pupils aged 2 to 11. The school is situated on three sites close to each other in central London and is owned and governed by the Cognita Schools group. The school is divided into two sections, lower and upper school, and follows the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma programmes.
15. The school has identified 126 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A very small number of pupils in the school have an education, health and care plan.
16. The school has identified 29 pupils as speaking English as an additional language.
17. The school states that its aims are for pupils to be challenged academically and to establish a liberal ethos aligned with the values of the International Baccalaureate. The school strives to deliver a broad curriculum. The diverse community fosters a global outlook and it teaches the importance of being open-minded and reflective. The school aims to develop a culture of responsibility, service to others and accountability.

## 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

18 November 2025

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

19. 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 a governor
- discussions with the principal, 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)**.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate**

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

For more information, please visit [isi.net](http://isi.net)