



Salcombe
Preparatory School

ISI Inspection Highlights

October 2023

A COGNITA SCHOOL



Celebrating Excellence at Salcombe Prep School



Following our successful inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in October, we are delighted to now be able to share the full report with you.

There is so much to celebrate in this report, and I am thankful to all the children who shared their work and thoughts with inspectors, to the parents who completed the survey, and, of course, to my team, who continue to work hard to raise standards at Salcombe.

As many of you may be aware, a new framework came into effect from September 2023. In this booklet, you'll find a concise breakdown of the new framework, providing a quick overview and information on where to find more detailed information.

We are also pleased that the recommendations made by the Inspection Team are already embedded in the School Improvement Plan. We have been addressing both with a mixture of CPD for staff, observations, initiatives for some behaviours, and, of course, feedback from our pupils.

Thank you to everyone involved in making our school a thriving community of learning.

Miss Sands

Headmistress

An overview

An inspection is a rigorous process conducted by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and directed by the Department for Education (DfE), typically occurring once every three years.

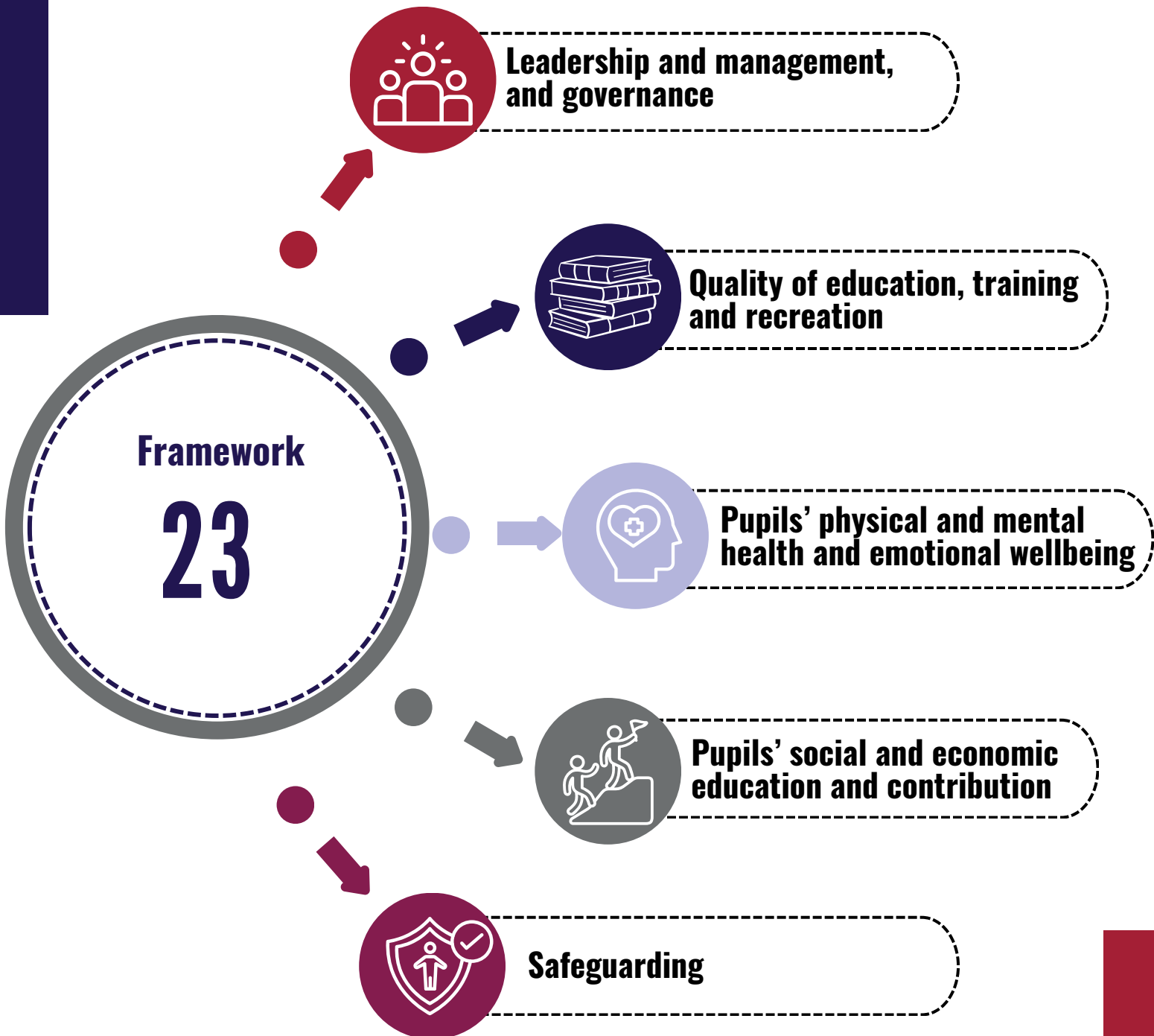
In October 2023, Salcombe Prep School underwent an educational quality inspection, evaluated against the updated ISI Framework 23 criteria. Notably, under this new framework, overall judgments or grades are no longer provided by ISI.

The inspection report is structured around five key areas, wherein inspectors meticulously detail commendations for 'Standards Met' and provide insightful overviews, highlighting areas for improvement where standards are not yet met.

We are delighted that Salcombe received the highest possible rating of 'Standards Met' across all five areas. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our remarkable team.



Areas of inspection





The Headlines



'Standards Met', Salcombe Prep School, achieving across all 5 areas!

- An environment where pupils feel happy, safe and can learn effectively, with warm trusting relationships between teachers and pupils. Because of this and the engaging curriculum and teaching, pupils are keen to learn and share their understanding.
- In the pre-prep positive pupil-teacher relationships result in pupils who are happy confident, play well together and are developing appropriate, and sometimes well-developed self-regulation.
- Pupils progress to a wide range of senior schools suitably prepared.
- Pupils contribute to the school and wide communities.
- Pupils understand the roles and responsibilities of being part of a democracy is developed so that they are prepared for their adult lives.
- Pupils have a strong understanding of the commitment to respect for others.



“Pupils feel happy, safe and can learn effectively, with warm and trusting relationships between teachers and pupils.”

- Senior Leaders and governors share a collaborative, effective working relationship. Both have appropriate skills and use these to reflect on and understand well the school's strengths and areas of challenge.
- Leaders and managers promote meticulous and appropriate curriculum planning.
- Teachers provide helpful feedback and enable pupils, including those with special needs and disabilities (SEND), to make good or better progress.



Leadership and management, and governance



- The teachers know the pupils well and support them appropriately, academically and personally.
- The school is a happy and safe place for pupils, where they thrive, enjoy learning and have high aspirations, in accordance with the school's aims.
- Leaders and governors set high academic expectations.
- Teachers model the behaviour they expect of pupils and teach them how to manage their behaviour.

Quality of education, training and recreation



- A broad curriculum that includes the development of pupils' creative skills. Pupils enjoy their lessons and speak positively about the different subjects that they study. They engage positively with their learning and make good progress in all curricular areas.
- In the Early Years, leaders have carefully designed a curriculum to ensure that activities are engaging and fun so that they impact positively on the learning and development of children.
- Pupils make rapid progress in their understanding and use of vocabulary, and in their descriptive writing and creative skills.
- The progress that pupils make in their education prepares them well for transition to senior school.



Pupils' physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing

- Pupils enjoy school and feel included.
- Pupils participate enthusiastically in extra-curricular activities, developing their physical and social skills, as well as their self-confidence.
- In PSHE lessons, pupils learn about the importance of eating a balanced diet, exercise, and how to care for their bodies. They engage in these lessons with interest and curiosity.
- Teachers set clear boundaries and expectations regarding behavior in lessons, creating a focused learning environment.



Pupils' social and economic education and contribution

- Teachers and leaders promote understanding of and celebrate with the pupils a range of faiths and cultures.
- Pupils develop their appreciation and respect for their own and for others' cultures and faiths.
- Senior leaders have structured the curriculum so that pupils critically consider their rights and responsibilities.
- Leaders offer all older pupils the opportunity to take on responsibility and duties, for example, as prefects, well-being ambassadors, and charity captains.





Safeguarding

- A robust, coherent, whole-school approach to safeguarding, resulting in a culture in which pupils feel safe at school.
- Pupils understand whom they can go to if they are worried about anything.
- Trusting relationships between staff and pupils facilitate pupils' confidence that staff will deal suitably with any concerns that they raise.
- Pupils talk confidently about how to stay safe online.



A message from Cognita



It was a pleasure to read the ISI inspection report for Salcombe Preparatory School.

The report makes clear that inspectors noted that the culture in the school as strong, underpinned by warm and trusting relationships – central to a great education. The report makes clear that there is much to be proud of at Salcombe.

It was especially pleasing to see that inspectors recognised the rich curriculum that leads to students attaining high standards.

Dr. Simon Camby,
Group Education Director



The leadership and management team has been meticulous in curriculum planning. This has led to much of the teaching being of high quality and engaging for pupils, preparing them well for progression to a wide range of senior schools.”

A restless energy is an excellent trait of a thriving school, the focus on being the best at getting better will ensure Salcombe students continue to thrive.

James Carroll,
General Manager



We know that Salcombe students achieve excellent academic results, but it was particularly pleasing to read, “pupils feel happy and safe and can learn effectively, with warm and trusting relationships between teachers and pupils. Because of this and the engaging curriculum and teaching, pupils are keen to learn and share their understanding.”

Learning is a skill we should cherish and nurture in every child and it is clear that Salcombe Prep is doing just that to develop a lifelong love of learning in every student. The Leadership team have a very clearly aligned school development plan to support all stakeholders in the next stage of it's development.

Jeremy Phelan,
Chair of Governors



Salcombe Preparatory School

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