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**SCHOOL INSPECTION SERVICE**

Progress monitoring report

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| School name | Calder Valley Steiner School |
| DfE registration number | 381/6002 |
| Inspection dates | 1 and 2 February 2018 |
| Reporting inspector | Dr Martin Bradley |
| Supporting Inspector | Mr Martin Cragg |

# SECTION A: Information

# Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by the School Inspection Service (SIS) at the request of the Department for Education (DfE). It was carried out by SIS in accordance with Section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, and it follows the inspection framework agreed with the DfE.

The last full inspection took place on 15 – 17 May 2017. A Progress Monitoring inspection took place on 26 and 28 September 2018. This inspection made the following recommendations for improvement in order to meet the independent school standards:

* make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils at the school (paragraph 7(a));
* ensure that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff; (paragraph 14);
* ensure that the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and that appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified (paragraphs 16(a) and 16(b));
* provide suitable changing accommodation and showers for pupils aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education (paragraph 23(1)(c));
* ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities can demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraphs 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)).

The school was served with a Notice by the DfE on 4 July 2017 requiring an Action

Plan to be submitted by 4 August 2017 with an implementation date of 4 October 2017. The Action Plan was submitted on 23 August and evaluated by SIS on 28 August 2017. The Action Plan required improvement. On 13 September the DfE called for an unannounced Progress Monitoring Inspection to be carried out by the SIS for a compliance check. On 27 September a revised Action Plan was submitted to DfE. It was provided in hard copy to the inspector on 26 September.

This inspection took place without prior notification to the school. It was conducted by two independent professional inspectors who looked at aspects of the school’s provision, including its accommodation, as requested by the DfE. The school had completely revised its Action Plan since the original version was submitted to the DfE, including revision of the dates for action to be completed. These are now within the time scale sought by DfE, apart from matters, such as annual pupil reports, which are due for action later in the academic year.

# Information about the school

Calder Valley Steiner School is an independent day school which provides part-time and full-time education for 53 girls and boys aged from three to 11 years. This is a decrease from 75 at the time of the full inspection in May 2017. The school was first registered in 2011 and is currently registered with the DfE for 90 pupils. There is one pupil with an education health care plan. The school had a Progress Monitoring inspection in September 2017. At the time of the May 2017 full inspection the school had two sites, the original site in a former church house and Sunday school building in Cragg Vale, and a recently opened site in part of an industrial unit in Brierley near Luddendenfoot. Since then the school remained at the original site and temporarily relocated the two kindergarten classes into the community room in the adjacent parish church in the autumn term. These classes moved into the main school building in January 2018. The church community room is no longer being used. The school is actively seeking alternative accommodation and intends to keep all classes on one site. It has a small outside garden play area by the school entrance and in the summer also uses the adjacent graveyard where tombstones have been cleared and grass mown. The graveyard is only used in dry weather in the summer and so was not in use at the time of the present inspection. Each day the kindergarten classes go into nearby woods for a walk and play activities. One walk has a shelter and for the other a tarpaulin is used to provide overhead cover when required.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is provided in two kindergarten classes with an age range from three to six years and which have a total of thirty- one children attending. There are nine pupils in Class 1/2, six in Class 3 and thirteen in Class 4/5. For some lessons and in the afternoons, Class 3 joins Class 4/5. Class 6/7/8 was discontinued in December 2017, ensuring that the school is now within its registered age range of three to twelve.

Calder Valley Steiner School seeks to enable children to find their own strengths, to provide them with the inner resources to overcome any educational challenges they face, and to develop in them faculties which will help them to live as creative, freethinking individuals. The mission statement for the school is “Making Time for Childhood”. The school has been granted exemptions from some aspects of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS.

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| Steiner Class Names | National Curriculum Year Groups |
| Kindergarten | Nursery, Year R Year 1 |
| Class 1 | Year 2 |
| Class 2 | Year 3 |
| Class 3 | Year 4 |
| Class 4 | Year 5 |
| Class 5 | Year 6 |

**SECTION B: Progress in relation to the school’s action plan and compliance with the independent school standards.**

**Part 3, paragraph 7(a): make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.**

**The standard is now met.**

Safeguarding training has now been completed for staff and trustees, as has Prevent training. Information from Calderdale local authority Prevent Coordination Team has been circulated to all staff who have signed to acknowledge that they have read this. The same has also been done for the school’s safeguarding policy and for *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)*. Early Years staff safeguarding training was also completed in November 2017 and included issues relating to the identification of neglect and abuse. The School Manager is a member of the appointments Panel and has received training in safer recruitment.

There are excellent links with Calderdale safeguarding team and other agencies including Barnardo’s. NSPCC booklets have been distributed throughout the school.

**Part 3, paragraph 14: ensure that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff.**

**The standard is now met.**

Outdoor supervision rotas are in place and supervision is now good. The issue identified in previous inspection mainly affected working at the former factory site which is no longer used. Pupils do not go outside unless a member of staff is present.

**Part 3, paragraph 16(a): ensure that the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy.**

**The standard is now met.**

A written risk assessment policy has been drawn up and implemented. The School Manager’s enhanced role has enabled the school to become proactive in developing and implementing risk assessments. Where new situations arise, such as the use of nearby tennis courts for physical education, risk assessments are devised before the facilities are used. The graveyard will only be used in the summer term following appropriate risk assessments being devised and implemented by all staff. The gate between the school garden and the graveyard is now locked and chained. The former church pews have been removed from the graveyard where they presented a hazard. The kindergarten classes have been moved into the main school building from the church community room. This reduces risks and also facilitates communication within the school.

**Part 3, paragraph 16(b): that appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.**

**The standard is now met.**

Risk assessments are in place and fortnightly audit reports are a standing agenda item at College of Teachers meetings which the School Manager now attends. She has taken responsibility for risk assessments, identifying the need for any additional assessments and monitoring their implementation and effectiveness.

Risk assessments for the Kindergarten classes were updated prior to their move into the school building. Classroom checks are in place, along with fire escape checks. Fire evacuation procedures have been revised and an independent assessor has made minor changes to signage, bringing the system up to date. Testing of electrical equipment has been completed.

**Part 5, paragraph 23(1) (c): provide suitable changing accommodation and showers for pupils aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education.**

**The standard is no longer applicable.**

Following the decision to end Classes 6, 7 and 8, there were no pupils aged over 11 years at the start of the school year and this requirement no longer applies.

**Part 8, paragraph 34(1)(a): ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities can demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and actively promote the well-being of pupils.**

**The standard is now met.**

The chair of trustees is the Acting Education Coordinator and he has completed a leadership and management course. The School Manager has completed safeguarding training; Prevent training; online leadership and management training; recruitment training and fire marshal training. This latter training has also been completed by the Acting Education Coordinator, one of the teachers and the Administrative Assistant who in addition, is undertaking level 3 first aid training. There are sufficient trained paediatric first aiders in the school. The School Manager has now fully assumed her overall responsibilities and the appointment of a full-time Administrative Assistant has enabled her to adopt a more direct and comprehensive management role. Together they are leading the school’s plan for acquiring new premises, following consultation with the trustees and staff. These arrangements successfully promote good leadership and management

An asbestos survey and fire risk surveys have been undertaken and the recommendations implemented. A former maintained school deputy head teacher with SEN expertise has been recruited as a trustee.

**Part 8, paragraph 34 (1) (b): Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently.**

**The standard is now met.**

The leadership and management changes have created posts with specific responsibilities and have enabled the School Manager, with the support of the Acting Education Coordinator, to develop her management role and its associated leadership elements effectively. This has enabled safeguarding issues to be directly addressed and dealt with. Other major improvements include restricting the school’s pupils’ age range to that registered with the DfE; ceasing the use of the church community room which was unsuitable for use by the kindergarten classes, and restricting the use of the graveyard as a play area. Management changes also include the appointment of the Administrative Assistant, and the attendance of the School Manager and Acting Education Coordinator at trustee meetings and at

College of Teachers’ meetings where discussions of policy and management issues are amongst standing agenda items.

The identification of new roles and the clarifying and delegating of responsibilities has led to the development of an effective management team. Its members have clear mandates to be proactive in identifying, developing and implementing policies as well as providing leadership within the school’s collegiate approach.

**Part 8, paragraph 34 (1) (c): Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities actively promote the well-being of pupils.**

**This standard is now met.**

The school leadership and management are promoting safeguarding and pupils’ welfare effectively, alongside attending to Prevent agenda issues. Risk assessment policies and assessments are in place and undergo regular reviews and updates. Staff training in these areas is complete and a regular updating plan is in place. The School Manager has oversight on these areas and monitors their effective implementation.

Although the standards relating to the quality of education were met previously, inspectors spent time observing lessons during this inspection. The quality of teaching was good and overall has improved since the full inspection in May 2017. The teaching of music was outstanding. It involved the pupils with excellent pace and variety. The good range of activities in other lessons similarly contributed to the quality of teaching. Teachers plan effectively. The quality of learning is generally good. Some pupils, especially where they have attended other schools before coming to Calder Valley Steiner, have difficulty in concentrating, but the teachers are able to encourage them to join in activities and to develop their learning. The oldest class have visited the Yorvik Museum in York and are due to visit the Terracotta warrior exhibition in Liverpool. The children in the Kindergarten classes benefit from the strong emphasis on outdoor learning during the daily walks. They are well prepared for these and appropriately clad for inclement weather.

# Compliance with the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014[[1]](#footnote-1)

The school now meets The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (‘the independent school standards’) and associated requirements.

**SCHOOL DETAILS**

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| Name of school: | Calder Valley Steiner School | | | |
| Address of school: | The St. John’s Centre  Church Bank  Cragg Vale  Hebden Bridge  HX7 5TF | | | |
| Telephone number: | 01422 882071 | | | |
| Email address: | caldersteiner@gmail.com | | | |
| Web address | [www.caldersteiner.org.uk](http://www.caldersteiner.org.uk/) | | | |
| Proprietor: | Calder Valley Steiner Education Ltd | | | |
| Chair of Trustees/Governors: | Dr Richard Bunzl | | | |
| Head Teacher: | N/A | | | |
| DfE Number: | 381/6002 | | | |
| Type of school: | Independent school | | | |
| Age range of pupils: | 3-11 | | | |
| Gender of pupils: | mixed | | | |
| Total number on roll: | full-time | 28 | part-time | 25 |
| Number of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP): | Boys: | 1 | Girls: | 0 |
| Number of pupils with English as an additional language: | Boys: | 0 | Girls: | 0 |
| Type of inspection: | Progress monitoring inspection under  Section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 | | | |
| Date of inspection: | 1 and 2 February 2018 | | | |
| Lead Inspector: | Dr Martin Bradley | | | |
| Supporting inspector | Mr Martin Cragg | | | |

**This report has been prepared by the School Inspection Service, which provides independent professional inspection of all schools affiliated to the Focus Learning Trust, and members of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship or Cognita group. The report is available from the School Inspection Service website:** [**www.schoolinspectionservice.co.uk.**](http://www.schoolinspectionservice.co.uk/)

1. [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)