



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report

Mander Portman Woodward Independent College

September 2022

Contents

School's Details	3
1. Background Information	4
About the school	4
What the school seeks to do	4
About the pupils	4
2. Regulatory Compliance Inspection	5
Preface	5
Key findings	6
PART 1 – Quality of education provided	6
PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils	6
PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils	6
PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors	6
PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools	6
PART 6 – Provision of information	7
PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled	7
PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools	7
3. Recommendation with regard to material change request	8
Summary of findings	8
Recommendation	8
4. Inspection Evidence	9

School's Details

College	Mander Portman Woodward Independent College			
DfE number	330/6079			
Address	MPW Birmingham 16–18 Greenfield Crescent Edgbaston Birmingham B15 3AU			
Telephone number	0121 454 9637			
Email address	birmingham@mpw.ac.uk			
Headteacher	Mr Mark Shingleton			
Chair of governors	Mr Steven Boyes			
Age range	14 to 19			
Number of pupils on roll	200			
	Years 10 and 11	45	Sixth Form	155
Inspection dates	28 to 29 September 2022			

1. Background Information

About the school

- 1.1 Mander Portman Woodward College is an independent co-educational day school. It is part of the Mander Portman Woodward Group (MPW) and the MPW governing body oversees all three colleges. MPW Birmingham was established in 1980 and has occupied its current premises since 2006. The head has been in post since 2009. The college's previous inspection was undertaken by Ofsted.

What the school seeks to do

- 1.2 The college aims to provide a broad and flexible curriculum with bespoke programmes of study and a pastoral system geared towards individual needs. The college seeks to assist students in making informed choices about higher education and careers. It seeks to do this through providing a friendly, informal environment in which students develop individually and as members of society, and through intensive tuition in small groups, close personal monitoring of academic progress and regular examination practice.

About the pupils

- 1.3 Students come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. Around a third are of a nationality other than British. Nationally standardised test data provided by the college indicate that the ability of the students on entry is broadly average. The college has identified 19 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), which include dyslexia and dyspraxia, with a minority of these having ADHD/ADD. All receive additional support. No pupils has an education, health and care (EHC) plan. English is an additional language (EAL) for 81 pupils, 56 of whom receive additional support for their English with one having a below functional level of competence. A number of pupils have been identified by the college as being more able, and the curriculum provides further support, through wider challenges and extension tasks.

2. Regulatory Compliance Inspection

Preface

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is approved by the Secretary of State to inspect schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and report on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards ('the standards') in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Additionally, inspections report on the school's accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. Inspections also comment on the progress made to meet any compliance action points set out in the school's most recent statutory inspection.

ISI inspections are also carried out under the arrangements of the ISC Associations for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of their membership.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school's compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated and the school is required to take the actions specified.

Additionally, this visit serves as a material change visit to assess the school's proposal to change the age range of students to 14–26 years old. The school currently takes students aged 14-19 and wishes to accept a small number of academically able students who wish to take A-levels.

Inspections do not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as: an exhaustive health and safety audit; compliance with data protection requirements; an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features; contractual arrangements with parents; an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Inspectors may be aware of individual safeguarding concerns, allegations and complaints as part of the inspection process. Such matters will not usually be referred to specifically in published reports in this document but will have been considered by the team in reaching its judgements.

Links to the standards and requirements can be found here: [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#).

Key findings

- 2.1 The school meets the standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.**

PART 1 – Quality of education provided

- 2.2 The school's GCSE and A-level results in the years 2019 to 2022 confirm that teaching enables pupils to make good progress in the context of Part 1 paragraph 3(a).
- 2.3 The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.
- 2.4 Pupils receive relationships and sex education, except in so far as they are lawfully excused. The school has consulted parents and published a written statement of its policy which has regard to the relevant statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.**

PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- 2.6 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.
- 2.7 The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.**

PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 2.8 Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance; good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.
- 2.9 The standards relating to welfare, health and safety [paragraphs 6–16], the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010, and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met.**

PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- 2.10 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.
- 2.11 The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17–21] are met.**

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 2.12 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are

appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.

2.13 The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] are met.

PART 6 – Provision of information

2.14 A range of information is published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. This includes details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for any with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. It also includes particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.

2.15 The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

2.16 Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

2.17 The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.18 The proprietor ensures that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

2.19 The standard relating to leadership and management of the school [paragraph 34] is met.

3. Recommendation with regard to material change request

Summary of findings

- 3.1 Mander Portman Woodward College seeks to extend its upper age range from 19 to 26 years. To facilitate this proposed change the college has paid due attention to all parts of the independent school standards, with a particular focus on safeguarding. This has included a range of detailed risk assessments which cover all aspects of interactions of the older students with younger pupils, such as peer-on-peer relationships, increased risk of access to alcohol and drugs, and radicalisation. The college has also strengthened its supervision arrangements and extended CCTV coverage. Additionally there is an enhanced admission procedures to assess the suitability of the mature students and to ensure they are legitimately coming to study. A detailed safeguarding presentation will be given to adult students (based on current statutory advice) regarding interactions of older students with younger ones and appropriate relationships, as part of an enhanced induction process. There will be certain restrictions placed on the older students such as their participation in extra-curricular activities such as football. Finally, the college code of conduct must be signed by all students and includes expectations of behaviour and rules of engagement with younger students.
- 3.2 The college accommodation is suitable for the proposed age extension because all classrooms have window panels, class sizes are small and these older students will only be attending lessons with sixth form students. Additionally, there are separate toilet and changing accommodation for the adult students. This is possible because there are sufficient facilities to cater for 260 students. The college states its maximum permitted number of students is 260 and it intends no more than 10 mature students will be accepted. The curriculum is already established for the intended students and the content is dictated by examination board specifications.

Recommendation

- 3.3 It is recommended that the material change request is granted.

4. Inspection Evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors observed lessons, had discussions with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff and with a group of governors. Inspectors visited the learning support and educational resource areas, the student common room and the study centre. Inspectors considered the responses of parents, staff and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires. The inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mrs Louise Robinson	Reporting inspector
Mr Garry Leeson	Compliance team inspector (Compliance manager, ISA school)
Mrs Angela Drew	Team inspector (Director of Education, IAPS/ISA schools)