

Monday 13th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Inspection Report

I am writing to share with you the outcome of Brookthorpe Hall School's recent Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection, which took place between 17 and 19 March 2026.

As many of you will be aware, the school moved from the Ofsted framework to the ISI framework in September 2025. This was our first inspection under the new framework, and it provided an opportunity for inspectors to take a detailed look at all aspects of school life.

We are incredibly proud of the report, which recognises the dedication of our staff, the achievements of our pupils and the supportive community we have built together.

Throughout the report, inspectors highlight the strength of our provision, the quality of education pupils receive and the positive culture that exists across the school. Inspectors recognised many of Brookthorpe's strengths, including:

- The highly supportive and nurturing environment that helps pupils develop confidence, resilience and self-esteem.
- A broad and personalised curriculum that meets the individual needs of pupils and enables them to achieve success.
- Strong relationships between staff and pupils, with teachers demonstrating a secure understanding of pupils' individual needs.
- A culture of inclusivity, respect and positive behaviour.
- A well-planned careers programme that prepares pupils effectively for their next steps.
- A 'caring' and 'effective' safeguarding culture among staff in the day-to-day support of pupils, underpinned by effective safeguarding training and strong links with local safeguarding partners..

We were particularly pleased to see inspectors note that:

"Leaders provide pupils with a highly supportive and nurturing school environment that enables them to develop resilience, self-esteem and confidence."

and that:

"The school provides a suitably broad curriculum that supports the specific and individual needs of pupils consistently well."

These comments reflect what we strive to achieve every day for our pupils and families.



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While the overall narrative of the report is extremely positive, inspectors identified a small number of compliance issues which meant that some standards were not met at the time of the inspection.

These issues related to broadly administrative and procedural requirements rather than the day-to-day care, support and oversight provided to pupils.

I also want to assure you that the matters raised were addressed promptly, with actions completed either during the inspection itself or shortly afterwards.

By way of example, the report states that *'leaders do not maintain admission and attendance registers in accordance with current statutory guidance'*. When this matter was raised during the inspection, we explained that the school maintains a paper register for those children who, owing to their individual needs, arrive at times other than the earliest start time. This information is subsequently transferred into the electronic register, such that a twice-daily registration process is in effect. This system has been inspected on three previous occasions at this school and has on each occasion been found to be compliant. At the time of the inspection, that day's entries had not yet been transferred into iSAMS (the electronic register), and the inspectors did not consider this to reflect normal practice for transition and SEND pupils. The timing of the electronic register's closure is compliant; it simply reflects a structure adapted to our pupils' needs, rather than that of a traditional mainstream school, and this was demonstrated to the inspectors during the visit.

A further example is regarding the Single Central Register. The report states that *'The school's safer recruitment procedures do not always reflect current statutory guidance. The Single Central Register (SCR) does not always record the date on which barred list checks are completed'*. When the inspectors raised concerns about the SCR, we explained that the barred list check is now an integral component of an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. As enhanced DBS checks are now obtained for all relevant staff, the additional column recording the date of the barred list check is redundant, since the check itself and its date are already encompassed within the DBS column. Notwithstanding this, when the inspector requested that the column be completed, with the relevant data transferred across from the DBS column, this was done immediately. There was, therefore, no inaccuracy and no missing data; all requisite checks had in fact been carried out.

Whilst we are naturally disappointed that these issues affected the final outcome, we have welcomed the feedback and used it to strengthen our administration processes further.

Overall, we believe the report reflects the school that parents, carers and pupils experience every day: a caring, ambitious and nurturing environment where young people are known, supported and encouraged to thrive.

I would like to thank our pupils, staff and families for their ongoing support and contribution to our school community. The positive findings within the report are a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved.



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I have attached a full copy of the final report. We understand that some parents and carers may wish to discuss the report in more detail. To provide an opportunity to do so, we will be holding a coffee afternoon with senior leaders at 3:30pm on Thursday 16th July.

If you would like to attend, please confirm using the following email address:

brookthorpeenquiries@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Jon Bell
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