ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate

Progress monitoring inspection report

5 June 2026

Avalon School

Caldy Road

West Kirby

Wirral

CH48 2HE

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) and 7(b), 15

1. Leaders oversee the effective implementation of a safeguarding policy and procedures which fulfil the requirements of current statutory guidance. They ensure that staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and that the safeguarding culture is well embedded across the school.
2. The safeguarding team is suitably trained in line with national and local authority safeguarding requirements. They understand the contextual risks to the pupils in their care. The safeguarding and pastoral teams meet at least weekly to monitor any concerns relating to pupil welfare and how these are being followed up.
3. Leaders ensure that staff are trained effectively and regularly in safeguarding practices, including through termly briefings, online learning and weekly updates which include scenario-based questions to check their knowledge and understanding. Leaders implement a thorough induction programme for new staff so that they are clear about the school's safeguarding arrangements as soon as they join the school.
4. Staff know pupils well and identify any changes of behaviour which could indicate a potential safeguarding concern. They report to the safeguarding team and record their concerns using the school's safeguarding pro forma. This is done in a timely and appropriate way and allows the safeguarding team to be proactive in putting in place early and effective support. The safeguarding team seeks and acts on advice from the local authority, including children's services, when required. Safeguarding concerns are suitably recorded, showing actions taken and decisions made. Child protection records are maintained effectively.
5. Staff are aware of the procedures to follow should there be any low-level concerns about, or allegations against, adults working at the school. Leaders take appropriate action when these are reported, including providing members of staff with additional support and training if needed. Leaders monitor concerns about adults diligently to identify patterns or trends. They understand the thresholds for reporting any such concerns, taking advice from the local authority and making referrals when required.
6. Pupils learn that it is important to share concerns and worries and they know that they can talk to many trusted adults in the school. Staff teach pupils how to keep themselves safe when online, including the importance of privacy settings and of reporting any suspicious activity. A suitable internet filtering and monitoring system is in place which sends alerts to safeguarding leaders if any online concerns are detected. Leaders respond promptly and thoroughly investigate any concerns that arise.
7. Governors maintain effective oversight of the school's implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures through detailed written reports from the safeguarding team and visits to the school to scrutinise procedures, such as how any low-level concerns are logged and responded to. The governing board discusses safeguarding issues with leaders at their half-termly meetings. They undertake a formal review of the safeguarding policy and its implementation at least annually.

8. Leaders implement the school's attendance policy effectively. Since the previous inspection leaders have reviewed and updated the policy to ensure that it meets and reflects the requirements of current statutory guidance. In particular, the revised policy identifies the correct attendance codes that are now used in the attendance register, the name and contact details of the senior attendance champion and the timings of morning and afternoon registration periods. Leaders have installed an electronic system for registration which has been implemented effectively since the previous inspection. Both attendance and admission registers are now maintained electronically.
9. Staff have been thoroughly trained about attendance procedures and use the correct attendance codes appropriately when recording pupils' attendance or absence. Leaders ensure that pupils have a clear understanding of the link between high levels of attendance at school and good progress in their learning. Leaders monitor attendance records daily and put in place suitable support for any pupils who do not achieve high rates of attendance. School leaders liaise effectively with the local authority. They inform the local authority whenever there are concerns about pupils' absence and when pupils join or leave the school at non-standard transition points.
10. The school meets the Standards.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

11. The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. The arrangements and procedures for safeguarding at the school are published on the school's website.
12. The school meets the Standard.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

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

13. Leaders have effectively implemented the school's action plan to address the weaknesses that were identified at the previous inspection. They have established and implemented a systematic and rigorous online system to record pupils' attendance. Leaders ensure that staff are well trained to use the online registers correctly. Leaders review attendance records on a regular basis to ensure that appropriate action can be taken to address any concerns that may arise.
14. Since the previous inspection, governors have monitored the effective implementation of the action plan. They maintain effective oversight of the work of school leaders through regular visits to the school and termly reports on key aspects, such as safeguarding and pupil attendance data. As a result, governors ensure that leaders have the skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and promote the wellbeing of the pupils.
15. The school meets the Standards.

© Independent Schools Inspectorate 2026

School details

School	Avalon School
Department for Education number	344/6016
Registered charity number	1088050
Address	Avalon School Caldy Road West Kirby Wirral CH48 2HE
Phone number	0151 625 6993
Email address	schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk
Website	www.avalon-school.co.uk
Proprietor	Avalon School Educational Trust
Chair	Dr Catherine Kidd
Headteacher	Mrs Joanna Callaway
Age range	2 to 11
Number of pupils	116
Date of previous inspection	4 to 6 November 2025

© Independent Schools Inspectorate 2026

Information about the school

16. Avalon School is an independent co-educational day school located in Wirral. The school comprises: an infant department, for children and pupils aged two to seven years; and a junior department, for pupils in Years 3 to 6. The school is a charitable trust overseen by a board of governors.
17. There are 49 children in the early years, comprising two Nursery classes and one Reception class.
18. The school has identified 18 pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. A very small proportion of pupils have an education, health and care plan.
19. The school has not identified any pupils who speak English as an additional language.
20. The school states that its aims are to provide the best opportunity for all pupils to learn and develop in a supportive and stimulating environment. It endeavours for all pupils to develop confidence, curiosity and the skills to achieve highly. The school seeks to foster in pupils an understanding and willingness to collaborate with others by encouraging the values of respect, empathy and kindness.

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.

© Independent Schools Inspectorate 2026

Inspection details

Inspection dates	5 June 2026

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

22. 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 the chair of governors
- discussions with the headteacher, 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**.

Independent Schools Inspectorate

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

For more information, please visit isi.net

© Independent Schools Inspectorate 2026