

Material change inspection report

7 July 2026

Apex Primary School

60 – 62 Argyle Road

Ilford

IG1 3BG

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 has submitted a material change request to increase its pupil numbers from 112 to 130.

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school Standards if the material change is implemented. It is recommended that the material change be approved.

Inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

ISSR paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), 11, 12, 14, 16

1. Leaders prioritise safeguarding and ensure that staff have effective and frequent safeguarding training so that they understand the contextual risks to pupils and are able to fulfil their responsibilities. Safeguarding leaders understand their responsibility to contact the local authority. Leaders maintain appropriate records of safeguarding concerns. The safeguarding team make prompt referrals to external agencies where required to help ensure pupils get the support that they need. Governors undertake regular reviews of safeguarding practice, including an annual review. The safeguarding policies and arrangements in place reflect statutory guidance.
2. Staff are clear about the process for reporting concerns about the welfare of pupils and do this without delay. They are vigilant and understand what to do if a child is at risk of harm.
3. Staff understand the school's code of conduct and how to report concerns about the conduct of adults. Leaders keep suitable records of reports relating to the behaviour of adults working in the school and monitor these to identify and act on any trends or patterns. Leaders seek and act on advice from the local authority and make prompt referrals to them where required.
4. Pupils know who to talk to if they have worries or concerns and know they would be listened to. In personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) lessons, pupils learn how to keep themselves safe, including when online. Leaders have put in place effective filtering of the school's internet and monitor pupils' online activity. Leaders ensure that pupils do not have access to mobile phones during school hours.
5. Leaders have drawn up a suitable health and safety policy which is effectively implemented by staff and reviewed by the governing body. Required checks and servicing of equipment and timely maintenance are carried out and recorded systematically.
6. Leaders ensure that fire extinguishers and fire alarm call points are appropriately located and regularly serviced. Fire doors are kept free from obstruction and automatic closing mechanisms are triggered in the event of an emergency. Exit routes are clearly lit and have appropriate signage. Staff are trained as fire wardens. Pupils practise frequent evacuation procedures and understand what to do when an alarm sounds. Leaders review the school's fire risk assessment and implement the action points that arise systematically.
7. Leaders ensure that pupils are appropriately supervised by a suitable number of staff before and after school, and during breaks and lunchtimes. Supervision arrangements are likely to remain suitable once the proposed material change takes place.
8. Leaders implement an appropriate written risk assessment policy effectively. They ensure that risks are systematically identified and assessed and take appropriate action to reduce or remove these.

Risk assessments, including a detailed analysis of the likely impact of increased pupil numbers, include appropriate control measures to mitigate the potential risks identified.

9. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

ISSR paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

10. Leaders carry out the required checks on staff, volunteers and proprietors before they start work in the school. The school does not employ supply staff. These checks are recorded accurately in the single central record of appointments (SCR).
11. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

ISSR paragraphs 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31

12. The school provides pupils with suitable toilet, washing, medical and first aid facilities. The school premises are clean, well maintained and appropriately lit, both internally and externally. Drinking water is appropriately labelled and readily available. The acoustics of the building are suitable. Suitable outdoor space for recreation and physical education is available to pupils. The premises and accommodation have sufficient capacity to cater for the proposed increase in the maximum number of pupils.
13. The school is likely to continue to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 6. Provision of information

ISSR paragraph 32(1)(c)

14. The safeguarding policy is available to parents on the school's website.
15. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

ISSR paragraph 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c) and 34(2)

16. The proprietor ensures that leaders demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the Standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils. Leaders have planned and prepared effectively for the proposed material change, including an assessment of potential risks arising from increased pupil numbers in classrooms.
17. The school is likely to continue to meet the Standards if the material change is implemented.

School details

School	Apex Primary School
Department for Education number	317/6077
Registered charity number	1116216
Address	Apex Primary School 60 – 62 Argyle Road Ilford Essex IG1 3BG
Phone number	020 8554 1208
Email address	contact@apexprimary.co.uk
Website	www.apexprimary.co.uk
Proprietor	Apex Trust
Chair	Mr Imtiaz Ahmed
Headteacher	Ms Meherun Hamid
Age range	3 to 11
Number of pupils	111
Number of children in the early years	33
Date of previous inspection	31 October to 2 November 2023

Information about the school

18. Apex Primary School is an Islamic co-educational day school located in Ilford. The primary school and early years occupy the same site, which they moved to in 2009. The school is governed by the Apex Trust, a registered charity led by the chair of trustees and supported by four other trustees.
19. There are 33 children in the early years comprising one Nursery and one Reception class.
20. The school has identified seven pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. No pupil in the school has an education, health and care plan.
21. The school has identified a small number of pupils for whom English is an additional language.
22. The school states that its aims are to produce well-rounded Muslim personalities with strong ethical values. The school motto of 'helping little feet climb mountains' embodies the sense that the school hopes that pupils will fulfil their potential, spiritually, socially and academically.

Purpose of the material change

Inspectors carried out this inspection following an application made by the school to the Department for Education to make a material change to the school's provision. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about whether the school is likely to meet the Independent School Standards and Early Years Foundation Stage requirements if the material change is implemented.

Inspection details

Inspection dates

7 July 2026

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

24. Inspection activities included:

- scrutiny of a range of policies, documentation and records provided by the school and information available on the school's website
- a tour of the school site to review fire safety, health and safety and maintenance
- discussions with members of the governing body
- 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

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