



THE ORATORY
PREP SCHOOL

Summary of Inspection Findings

February 2025

ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

A Message from Mr De Silva

I am delighted to share with you the findings from our recent ISI inspection. Inspections provide a real window into the social, emotional, and academic life of a school - truly showcasing the very soul of our family school.

No doubt you have heard me speak many times about our unique school culture, and I am so proud that the inspectors commented on this specifically during their feedback. They were genuinely impressed by the 'feel' of the school - whether through our traditions, exemplified in our motto "Cor ad Cor Loquitur", or through the acts of humility and kindness they witnessed throughout the inspection. This was further evidenced in the parent questionnaire, where 95% of parents agreed or strongly agreed with all the positive statements about the school. I am deeply grateful to our parental body for their continued support.

As parents and guardians, you have chosen to send your child to an incredibly special family school, where social and emotional learning have as significant an impact as the academic outcomes we provide.

Our supportive governors and talented staff team were also highly commended. Much like the parental response, the inspectors were hugely complimentary about the staff culture. The unique relationships our staff have with pupils form the foundation for the excellent teaching and learning observed during the inspection. I am immensely thankful to them for their hard work, care, and dedication.

As you will see, the inspection went incredibly well. We met all the standards, and the school truly flourished during the inspection days. It's easy to lose sight of just how special our school is, and how fortunate we are to have an inspection process that helps us reflect on and appreciate the excellence our children experience every single day.

Whilst I am thrilled that we met all the required standards, we also presented several areas of excellence. 'Significant Strengths' are not easily awarded. We

submitted evidence of excellence in Marking & Feedforward, Music, Sport, and SEND provision, and in the end, the inspectors encapsulated all of these within the following statement:

" Leaders focus on prioritising pupils' academic and personal growth successfully so that pupils receive highly effective education and care. This is a significant strength. Leaders have high aspirations for all and have successfully developed a culture where pupils have faith in themselves. "

How lucky we are to be part of a school where this is the reality. This school has an enviable reputation for excellence, and as you will see, the inspectors were able to triangulate their evidence to produce an exceptional inspection report. It not only highlights the outstanding provision taking place each day but also how we prepare our children for life beyond The OPS.

I do hope this booklet helps to explain the inspection process, and that you enjoy reading the full report.

Mr Andrew De Silva
Headmaster



Having read the latest inspection report, I am immensely proud of The Oratory Prep School. Over the past few years, the school has worked tirelessly with parents and children to create the culture that is so clearly a strength for the school.

Our parents have made such a positive contribution to the school and I am thankful to you all for placing your trust in what is clearly an excellent school with fantastic, talented staff and children.

The most encouraging aspect of the report is that our children benefit from attending an exceptional school, as evidenced by the inspection team, and I can tell you that it is 'The OPS way' and is very much normal for our very special family school.

Mr Mark Malley
CEO of Bellevue Education

”

Pupils of all ages
show a genuine
love of learning.

”

Understanding the ISI Inspection Report

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect independent schools in England. In February 2025, The Oratory Prep School underwent a routine full inspection. This document contains an overview of the findings. The full report can be found on our website at www.oratoryprep.co.uk/welcome/inspection-reports

Inspections report on the extent to which the statutory Independent School Standards and other applicable regulatory requirements are met. Schools are expected to meet the following robust standards:

- Standards relating to leadership and management, and governance
- Standards relating to the quality of education, training and recreation
- Standards relating to pupils' physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Standards relating to pupils' social and economic education and contribution to society
- Standards relating to safeguarding

The Oratory Prep School meets all the standards.

" A stimulating and vibrant learning community. "

We have chosen to present the inspection findings in a clear and accessible format, drawing directly from the inspectors' own words. This summary highlights what inspectors saw during their visit: how our pupils learn, grow and thrive here. By breaking the report into key themes, we hope to highlight what the inspection covered and how it reflects day-to-day life at The Oratory Prep School.



Our Significant Strength

Inspiring All To Aim High

The inspecting team identified a significant strength and their report paints a picture of a school where pupils thrive.

" Leaders have high aspirations for all and have successfully developed a culture where pupils have faith in themselves. "

This positive learning culture does not happen by accident. It is shaped by a carefully designed curriculum, passionate teaching staff and subject specialists and an environment that encourages questioning, discussion and reflection.

The benefits of this approach are seen far beyond the classroom. Inspectors observed that our pupils make exceptional progress, not only because they are well taught but because they are engaged, interested and eager to learn. They apply themselves with determination and take pride in what they achieve.

“

Leaders focus on prioritising pupils' academic and personal growth successfully so that pupils receive highly effective education and care.

This is a significant strength.

”



Academic Achievement

Stretch, Support and Success

The inspectors praised our pupils' strong academic progress and positive learning attitudes. They highlighted how effectively pupils apply their knowledge across subjects and how confidently they engage in discussion, problem-solving and independent thinking.

Thanks to teaching that stretches, supports and inspires, inspectors found that our pupils thrive across the curriculum and make excellent progress.

" Learning is characterised by engaging and challenging content that encourages pupils to apply effort and show creativity. [There is] a well-embedded culture where mistakes are seen as opportunities to develop learning further. "

OPS pupils' learning is marked by energy, independence and intellectual curiosity. They respond with enthusiasm to classroom challenges, whether working collaboratively or independently.

Teachers use data to make informed decisions about curriculum delivery, adjusting their teaching content and methods where necessary. This results in pupils making good and often rapid progress from the varied starting points.





Personal Development

“ Teachers encourage pupils to listen carefully and think about what they hear. Pupils respond appropriately, justify their answers and value other pupils’ perspectives and observations. They express their individuality confidently and challenge themselves to learn more. This contributes to their high levels of achievement overall. ”

Nurturing Kindness, Curiosity and Wisdom

The report highlighted the school’s warm and respectful atmosphere, noting how pupils flourish socially, emotionally and morally. Inspectors praised the school’s success in fostering a respectful, caring and confident community. Our pupils are not only academically capable but emotionally intelligent and socially responsible.

The report highlights pupils’ maturity, reflective thinking and clear moral compass. Children are happy to be themselves and are generous in celebrating others’ strengths.

Kindness is central to our school culture, where every child is known and cared for and where friendships and support networks thrive across year groups.

“ Pupils behave well throughout the school and understand how their actions affect others. ”

Inspectors found that pupils flourish in our nurturing environment, where wisdom is developed through reflection and discussion with others.

Personal development at The Oratory Prep School is not an add-on; it is woven through everything we do, from assemblies and playtime to classroom debates and leadership roles.

How We Support Growth

Space to Learn. Room to Grow.

Pupils benefit from high-quality teaching, a purposeful environment and strong pastoral care throughout the school. Our Early Years Foundation Stage (Little Oaks and Reception) was praised as a place where the youngest children flourish.

"Children in the early years benefit from an interesting and stimulating curriculum, leading them to become motivated and successful learners."

As pupils move up the year groups, they continue to benefit from a thoughtful, well-supported approach to safeguarding.

"Pupils understand how to raise concerns [...] and are confident that issues will be dealt with appropriately by staff who listen, care for, and respect them."

Our boarders spoke warmly about their experience to the Inspectors. They enjoy a nurturing environment, a rich programme of activities and excellent support from staff who know them well. This structured, caring approach helps pupils to grow into confident, kind and resilient young people.

“ [A] supportive boarding environment that gives pupils a sense of belonging. ”





Flourishing Pupils, Bright Futures

Confident, curious and
well-prepared

The inspection report describes our pupils of all ages who are confident, thoughtful and eager to learn. It recognises that by the time they leave, *at the end of Year 8*, pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education. They have not only acquired the skills they need to succeed, but also the curiosity and character to approach new challenges with confidence.

"[The] commitment to helping pupils achieve their academic and personal potential ensures that pupils are valued, challenged and supported throughout their educational journey."

“

The [future schools] programme enables pupils to develop their confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness extremely well.

”

Inspectors found that pupils show maturity in how they interact with others. They are polite and considerate, listen attentively and are able to manage their own behaviour with care and responsibility.

We are immensely proud that this inspection recognises the excellence we strive for every day. Our pupils' success, confidence and care for one another are at the heart of our school and we are delighted to see this reflected so clearly in the ISI's findings.

A Message of Thanks

We are proud of our whole school community (pupils, staff and families) for contributing to such a positive report.

We will continue to build on this success.

[Read the full report](#)

