



## Independent schools

Independent mainstream schools continue to offer strong **care, support and guidance**, particularly for pupils who experienced **well-being** issues as a result of the pandemic.

### What's going well

- Pupil and staff well-being is a strong focus in nearly all schools.
- Schools are putting in place useful strategies to support pupils' mental well-being and to address emotional issues arising from the pandemic. This includes employing independent counsellors.
- Pupils demonstrate very positive attitudes towards their learning.

### What needs to improve

- Personal and social education (PSE) is not always effectively delivered, particularly for pupils in key stage 4 and the sixth form. This means that pupils miss out on important learning in this subject.



Independent mainstream schools have returned to face-to-face teaching after a swift and effective move to online **teaching** during the pandemic. They are supporting pupils' **learning** and addressing any gaps that arose in this period.

### What's going well

- Schools' swift and effective response to the challenge of online teaching ensures that pupils' progress and standards remain high.
- Teachers continue to use technology effectively where it supports the learning experience of pupils.

### What needs to improve

- Teaching does not always challenge the most able pupils.
- Co-curricular activities and learning experiences have reduced due to the restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Leaders** continue to be resilient and creative as they adapt provision after the pandemic and plan for improvement.

### What's going well

- Leaders responded swiftly, creatively and effectively to the challenges of the pandemic.
- Leaders continue to develop the strong working relationship between staff and with parents that was established during the pandemic.
- Leaders work to ensure that there is a strong safeguarding culture in schools.

### What needs to improve

- Professional learning opportunities for staff have decreased due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.
- [Quality assurance processes are not always sharp enough and may not pick up on variability in provision.](#)