

ISI Inspection report guide

AN EXCELLENT OUTCOME

One school. One family.



Kimbolton School
Cambridgeshire



A community recognised for our distinctive character

We are immensely proud of this report, which captures the spirit of Kimbolton so well — a school that combines ambition with care, tradition with innovation, and excellence with genuine warmth.

The inspectors' findings are a testament to our dedicated staff, our engaged and supportive parents, and above all, to our pupils — whose curiosity, courage and kindness bring our values to life every day.

I am delighted that the report recognises not only our achievements but also our ambitions for the future, including the launch of our new Pre-School and our continued commitment to developing confident, compassionate young people.



Will Chuter

HEADMASTER

headmaster@kimboltonschool.com



“

Leaders ensure that pupils benefit from a broad and well-resourced academic curriculum... and an extensive programme of co-curricular opportunities which support their broader preparation for adult life.”

ISI REPORT, 2025

Celebrating our outstanding ISI Inspection outcome

I am delighted with the outcome of the ISI Inspection, which confirmed not only that we are meeting all the required standards but also that we offer a high-quality, well-rounded education that develops knowledge, skills and confidence.

Our school is not simply a collection of individuals: it is a community where, through our values of courage, curiosity, endeavour, integrity, and kindness we seek to enable every child in our care to reach their full potential.

The ISI report evidences the many ways in which Kimbolton School delivers this, from Pre-School to 18, day pupil or boarder, all enabled by our skilled and devoted academic and support staff.



Jonathan Gray

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Governors@kimboltonschool.com



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Governors and leaders work closely together to ensure that pupil wellbeing is central to the school's ethos and future planning.”

ISI REPORT, 2025



Section 1

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Key findings

Inspectors confirmed that the school meets all Independent School Standards and praised strengths across the school. Their report reflects a thriving community where pupils are supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their best — academically, socially and personally.

- All Independent School Standards met.
- Pupils benefit from a broad, well-resourced curriculum.
- Strong leadership and governance underpinned by clear values.
- Teaching is ambitious and engaging.
- Boarding described as “warm and inclusive.”
- Proactive wellbeing and safeguarding culture.
- Pupils make meaningful contributions to community life.



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Leaders ensure that pupils benefit from a broad and well-resourced academic curriculum... and an extensive programme of co-curricular opportunities which support their broader preparation for adult life.”

ISI REPORT, 2025

Leadership and management

LEADERSHIP WITH VISION AND VALUES

Leadership at Kimbolton was praised for its clarity of purpose, moral strength and commitment to pupil wellbeing. Inspectors found that leaders work collaboratively and reflectively, seeking the views of pupils, staff and parents to inform decision-making. The school's refreshed values — Courage, Curiosity, Endeavour, Integrity and Kindness — are meaningfully embedded across curriculum, pastoral care, co-curricular activities and long-term planning. The report confirms that decisions are consistently made “in the best interests of pupils” and that leaders have a clear vision for the school's future development.

- Leadership actively promotes school values.
- Clear strategic vision for future development.
- Inclusive consultation with pupils, parents and staff.
- Decisions consistently made in pupils' best interests.
- Strong monitoring of teaching, learning and professional development.
- Boarding leadership skilled, knowledgeable and effective.
- Pupil wellbeing central to leadership planning.



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Leaders actively promote the school's values of courage, curiosity, endeavour, integrity and kindness.”

ISI REPORT, 2025

Governance

GUIDED BY EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHT

Governors were commended for their high-quality oversight, strategic clarity and meaningful engagement with school life. They bring a wide range of professional expertise and work closely with the Headmaster and senior leaders to ensure that the Standards are consistently met. Their committee structure, regular visits, policy reviews and constructive challenge ensure accountability and ambition. The Board also oversees safeguarding, risk, finance and long-term strategy — including the development of the new Pre-School.

KEY POINTS:

- Governors have appropriate skills and training.
- Strong oversight of safeguarding, risk and compliance.
- Constructive challenge supports leadership.
- Governors meet regularly with staff, pupils and parents.
- Policies, complaints and statutory requirements fully monitored.
- Values and ethos actively upheld at governance level.
- Strategic support for future developments, including Pre-School expansion.



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Governors and leaders make decisions
in the best interests of pupils.”

ISI REPORT, 2025



Section 2

QUALITY OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RECREATION

Teaching, curriculum and learning

AMBITIOUS TEACHING, INSPIRED LEARNERS

Inspectors found that pupils enjoy a broad, well-planned and inclusive curriculum that encourages creativity, independence and intellectual curiosity. Teaching is ambitious, imaginative and engaging. Subject specialists provide strong academic challenge across the school, while SEND and EAL provision is well targeted and diagnostic. Assessment systems are purposeful and ensure pupils make strong progress. Pupils achieve high-quality qualifications and go on to appropriate post-18 destinations.

KEY POINTS:

- Broad and inclusive curriculum from Early Years onward.
- High-quality subject specialist teaching.
- Ambitious lessons developing confidence and independence.
- Robust assessment systems.
- SEND and EAL provision well targeted.
- Strong outcomes and post-18 progression.



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Teaching is often ambitious, enabling pupils to express their ideas with increasing confidence.”

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Co-curricular and enrichment

EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Kimbolton's co-curricular programme was described as extensive and highly valued. Pupils benefit from numerous opportunities in sport, drama, music, art, outdoor education, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh and academic societies. These experiences cultivate leadership, resilience, teamwork and creativity. The house system enhances community life and provides additional opportunities for competition, participation and collaboration. Boarding enriches this further through weekend activities and shared routines that build independence.

KEY POINTS:

- Wide range of clubs, societies and enrichment.
- Strong sporting, performing arts and creative programmes.
- Leadership opportunities through clubs and the house system.
- CCF and Duke of Edinburgh open to all.
- Boarding adds social and educational enrichment.



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The school's extensive provision of co-curricular opportunities helps all pupils develop varied skills and interests.”

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Section 3

**PUPILS' PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**

Wellbeing, mental health & PSHE

A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY CHILD IS KNOWN AND SUPPORTED

Inspectors found a warm and supportive ethos where pupils feel safe, valued and able to seek help when needed. The school's wellbeing hubs provide early intervention, while the PSHE and RSE curriculum promotes respect, empathy, consent, digital resilience and personal development. Behaviour in the Prep School and Sixth Form was seen as strong.

KEY POINTS:

- Wellbeing hubs support early intervention.
- PSHE and RSE curriculum broad and age-appropriate.
- Positive, empathetic relationships modelled throughout the school.
- Behaviour strong across most year groups.
- Early Years strengthens self-regulation and communication.



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A proactive approach to the management of mental health through the provision of wellbeing hubs helps pastoral staff to identify problems at an early stage.”

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Physical health, PE and boarding wellbeing

HEALTHY PUPILS, CONFIDENT BOARDERS

Physical education and sport feature strongly across the curriculum, promoting fitness, teamwork and resilience. Pupils enjoy opportunities in a wide range of sports, outdoor learning and active play. Boarding provides a homely, supervised and inclusive environment where pupils develop independence through daily routines and shared responsibilities. Pupils told inspectors they feel safe and supported, and that boarding enhances their confidence and social skills.

KEY POINTS:

- Strong PE, sport and outdoor activity provision.
- Healthy routines and opportunities for physical development.
- Boarding environment “warm and inclusive.”
- Accommodation well maintained and safe.
- Routines build independence and self-sufficiency.
- Pupils feel safe and supported in boarding.



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Boarders feel safe, grow in confidence and develop independence.”

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Section 4

**PUPILS' SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION
AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY**

Contribution to society

PUPILS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Inspectors praised the strong culture of service, leadership and social responsibility at Kimbolton. Pupils take part in meaningful volunteering, charitable fundraising and community engagement. Through RE, chapel, assemblies and tutor time, pupils explore moral and social issues and learn to respect different viewpoints. Careers education is personalised, well-structured and prepares pupils well for future pathways. Economic education begins in Prep, giving pupils early experience of enterprise, budgeting and money management.

KEY POINTS:

- Rich culture of charity and volunteering.
- Leadership roles across age groups.
- Strong moral, social and religious education.
- Environmental action and community partnerships.
- Well-developed careers programme.
- Early economic education in Prep.



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Pupils regularly engage in charitable fundraising and volunteer in the local community in line with the school's aim that pupils should be prepared to make a difference in the world.”

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Section 5

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding

A CULTURE OF VIGILANCE AND CARE

Safeguarding at Kimbolton was found to be effectively managed, with strong systems for training, safer recruitment and risk assessment. The inspection identified a single administrative omission in the safeguarding policy on Day 1, which was corrected immediately during the visit. Inspectors confirmed that pupils feel safe and know how to seek support, and that staff understand how to report concerns. Leaders and governors work closely with external agencies and monitor systems robustly. Online safety, boarding safeguarding and pastoral structures were all highlighted as strengths.

KEY POINTS:

- Safeguarding effectively managed.
- Administrative policy omission corrected during inspection.
- Strong staff training and reporting culture.
- SCR and safer recruitment robust.
- Boarding safeguarding thorough and proactive.
- Pupils taught how to stay safe online and offline.
- Leaders work well with local authority agencies.



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Staff are well trained and have appropriate knowledge to carry out their responsibilities.”

ISI REPORT, 2025



Conclusion

ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAMILY.

The ISI Report 2025 confirms Kimbolton as a school characterised by strong teaching, proactive wellbeing, high aspirations, excellence in boarding, and a deeply embedded culture of kindness and integrity. Pupils leave as confident, compassionate young adults, who are ready to make a positive difference in the world.

FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT:

WWW.KIMBOLTONSCHOOL.COM/ISI2025



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#OneSchoolOneFamily

Kimbolton School is a charitable Company limited by Guarantee and registered in England at Kimbolton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 0EA. Our Company Registration number is 4726427 and our Registered Charity Number is 1098586.