

M A Institute

Independent school standard inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an *independent school*.^{1, 2}

Information about the school

MA Institute is an independent Muslim day school for boys and girls aged from 11 to 16 years of age who are mainly of South Asian heritage. The school operates on split sites to provide a separate education for the boys and the girls. It is situated in the Manningham area of Bradford. At the time of the inspection, there were 165 boys and 101 girls on roll, in Years 7 to 11. No students have a statement of special educational needs and none are learning English as an additional language. The school opened in August 2003 and was registered in 2005. It was last inspected in November 2007. The school aims to 'provide a curriculum which challenges and supports students to achieve their potential wherever their talent lies' and 'provide a range of opportunities beyond the classroom that prepares students to take responsibility for their own and others well-being and success.'

Evaluation of the school

The school meets its aims and provides a good quality education. The provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their behaviour are outstanding. The provision for the students' welfare, health and safety is good and the school meets all safeguarding requirements. The school has made good improvement since its last inspection by enhancing the quality of education. The school meets almost all of the regulations for independent schools but does not provide washroom facilities that meet the requirements.

Quality of education

The school's curriculum is good. There is an appropriate curriculum policy in place which is supported by good quality schemes of work for all subjects from the National Curriculum except for music. In its place the school offers *nasheed* (Arabic and Islamic songs) and *tajweed* (Qur'anic recitation) to effectively address the aesthetic aspects of the required areas of learning. In addition, the school's programmes of study include Islamic studies such as: the Qur'an; *fiqh*, (the practical aspects of Islamic life); *tajweed* (Qur'an recitation); and an optional advanced Islamic studies course for those who wish to proceed further. The school offers Arabic, Urdu and French as part of its modern foreign languages programme. The

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

school has made good improvement since the last inspection by upgrading its information and communication technology (ICT) provision in the boys' section. It has plans in place to improve the ICT provision for girls.

The provision for physical education is good and there are two sessions per week. The school offers good provision for personal, social and health education (PSHE) in accordance with its Islamic ethos. The provision is linked well with its counselling and behaviour management programme. The school's student planner has appropriate information and a helpful list of telephone numbers should students want extra help and advice. In addition, essential daily prayers and some helpful reminders about code of conduct, discipline, health & safety, attendance and homework are also included in the planner.

There is effective careers advice which starts in Year 9. In Year 10 the school organises work experience placements; last year for example, students had the opportunity to work in local hospitals. They informed the inspectors that they greatly benefited from their work experience and, as a result, some of them are planning for a career in the National Health Service. This provision also helped them to understand the importance of helping others.

Extra support sessions are provided for those who are in need of additional help. The school offers a good range of extra-curricular activities which include educational visits and some outings linked to subjects in the curriculum, for example, a recent visit to the Science Adventure Centre in Sheffield. The school also organises some educational trips abroad. For example, last year, students went on a trip to Spain to learn about its Islamic heritage and European history. However, there is limited provision for extra-curricular activities in the girls' section. The school has plans in place to address this issue. External speakers and local dignitaries are regularly invited to visit the school to talk to the students.

The quality of teaching and assessment is good. All teaching during the inspection was at least good with some which was outstanding. Teachers demonstrate good subject knowledge which motivates students to learn. Clear and concise plans ensure that all lessons are effectively delivered. The teachers use different teaching activities to make teaching and learning interesting and enjoyable. During lessons students are appropriately involved in group activities and they have opportunities for working on their own which enables them to develop their independent learning skills. Teachers successfully link different subject areas of the curriculum in order to extend students' experiences in learning. There is a suitable marking and assessment policy in place. Teachers assess students' work regularly, providing helpful comments. Assessments are recorded and inform teachers' future planning.

The quality of planning is good. Mid-term and short-term plans are in place to effectively meet the needs of all students. Teachers give students the right level of work to match their abilities. Teachers motivate students and encourage them to achieve high standards. Relationships between students and teachers are good and based on mutual respect. The lessons start and finish with a prayer. Teachers use

computers, interactive whiteboards and other resources effectively to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. The school organises regular training and development programmes for teachers. There is a school-link programme in which teachers have the opportunity to share their professional knowledge with teachers from maintained schools. As a result of good teaching all students of different levels of ability, make good progress and some achieve highly. Parents and carers are regularly informed about their children's progress and they express support for the school.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school's provision for its students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Their regular attendance and their excellent attitude to learning show that they 'love their school' and enjoy their education. Their behaviour is outstanding and strongly reflects the school's Islamic ethos which is based on Islamic values and principles. The school effectively promotes excellent behaviour through an extensive programme of assemblies and the PSHE programme helps students to distinguish very clearly between right and wrong. All students are extremely polite and they greet courteously their teachers, fellow students and visitors. There is a suitable reward and sanction policy in place. In case of inappropriate behaviour, the school's discipline policy is effectively enforced. Students are well informed about their progress and achievements.

There is an elected students council which is very active and makes a very good contribution to school's day-to-day running. They vote to elect a representative from each class which helps them to understand democratic processes. Through the school council students have raised money for their school and for different charities. This feature is an improvement since the last inspection. Whole-school assemblies are held twice a week when students are invited to give speeches on different topics which enhanced their self-confidence. For example, in one assembly three students gave speeches on the virtue of patience. Some students take on the role of counsellors for fellow students when difficulties may arise. The students clearly demonstrated during lessons and in meeting the inspectors that they are confident and responsible.

The school through its good provision for literacy, numeracy and ICT, good career advice and provision for work placements prepares its students very effectively for their future lives. The good links with local state schools and with civic organisations provides yet further opportunities for students to broaden their horizons. The school receives regular visits from local representatives of civic organisations.

Students learn about British institutions and public services in English, history and citizenship lessons and some take a very keen interest in British politics. Students learn about other faiths in their religious studies programme. They celebrate their own faith and express respect for others. Friday's sermons are held to discuss different important topics each week. The school is involved in different activities in

the local neighbourhood to promote community cohesion, for example, the school, with local assistance, has created a football pitch to be used by the school during school time and by local young people after school.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The provision for safeguarding the students' welfare, health and safety is good. All students feel very safe. Students are effectively reminded about strangers and internet safety policy. There is a healthy food policy which is the basis through which students are encouraged to eat healthy food and regularly informed about health-related issues. The school provides them with a healthy diet and for example, encourages them to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Local nurses come into school to advise students about different health issues. The school very effectively raise students' awareness about anti-smoking and drug abuse. All the required policies are in place, including a safeguarding policy and all staff, including the school's designated child protection officers are trained at the required level. There is a health and safety risk assessment policy which is effectively implemented. The school's educational visits policy is in place. There is a first aid policy and first aid officers for each site are trained at the required level. The school has a fire risk assessment in place, all fire-fighting equipment is regularly tested and regular fire drills are conducted. The school has a three-year plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. The school maintains an attendance and admission register in line with the requirements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school has undertaken all the required measures to ensure that its staff and the proprietor are suitable to work with children. There is a suitable recruitment policy in place that is appropriately implemented. The school maintains a single central register which meets the regulations.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is accommodated on two sites and both enable students to learn safely and effectively. The school has reached its maximum number for boys and is aware that it exceeds its permitted number for girls. A new large site has been acquired and there are plans to move the boys' section into new premises this term and for the girls' section to move to the boys' current site. There are sufficient classrooms, an ICT suite, a medical room, a science laboratory, an assembly hall and a suitable outside space for recreational purposes. The buildings are appropriately maintained and decorated. However, the washroom facilities are not adequate for the number of students in the school and therefore the school's accommodation does not meet all of the regulations.

Provision of information

The school meets all requirements by providing the necessary information to parents, carers and others through an up-to-date prospectus and through the school's website. The school reports on students' progress annually to parents, carers and others.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school has a complaints policy and set of procedures which meet all of the regulations. The school has taken steps to ensure that parents and carers are aware of these.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The proprietor has ensured that the school meets The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, schedule 1 ('the Regulations'), with the exception of those listed below.³

The school does not meet all requirements in respect of the premises of and accommodation at schools (standards in part 5) and must:

- ensure that there are sufficient washrooms for staff and pupils, including facilities for pupils with special needs and disability, which take account of regulations 3 and 4 of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 23(j)).

What the school could do to improve further

While not required by regulations, the school might wish to consider the following points for development:

- Improve the provision for extra-curricular activities and educational visits for girls.
- Improve teaching resources by upgrading the ICT facilities in the girls' section of the school.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

Inspection judgements

outstanding	good	satisfactory	inadequate
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The quality of education

Overall quality of education		√		
How well the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of pupils		√		
How effective teaching and assessment are in meeting the full range of pupils' needs		√		
How well pupils make progress in their learning		√		

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Quality of provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	√			
The behaviour of pupils	√			

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The overall welfare, health and safety of pupils		√		
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School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Secondary, day		
Date school opened	2003		
Age range of pupils	11-16		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 165	Girls: 101	Total: 266
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,100		
Address of school	Lumb Lane Bradford BD8 7RZ		
Telephone number	01274 395454		
Email address	info@mainstitute.net		
Headteacher	Mr Arshad Khan		
Proprietor	Mr Arshad Khan		