

Bnois Jerusalem School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Dr Jonathan Yodaiken

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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 2005.¹²

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Bnois Jerusalem School is an orthodox Jewish (Charedi) Hassidic school, founded in 1965, whose girls are drawn almost exclusively from Stamford Hill in London, with a few girls travelling in from Golders Green. They come from Yiddish-speaking homes and speak English as an additional language. Their families do not access secular media such as national newspapers, radio, television or the internet. The girls are from mixed socio-economic backgrounds and large families. The age range is from three to 16 years. There are currently 606 pupils on roll which includes 152 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, all of whom receive public funding. One girl has a statement of special educational needs and a few girls have specific learning difficulties relating to communication. The school aims to give its pupils a broad and balanced education in Yiddish, *Kodesh* (religious studies) and secular subjects within the framework of their home culture. Its all-female environment aims to develop girls' *middos tovos* (positive character traits) to encourage them to live true *Torah* lives and to emerge as mature, contributing members of society. The school was last inspected in 2008.

Context of the inspection

At the time of the last inspection a number of regulations were not met. A progress monitoring visit took place in January 2010 when five of the regulations were still not met. The school later submitted an action plan indicating how it intended to meet these five regulations. The school action plan was deemed to be broadly satisfactory in January 2010 but lacking the appropriate rigour to ensure that the initiatives would be implemented. The purpose of this second monitoring visit was to assess the amount of progress made in meeting the regulations by implementing its action plan.

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

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At its previous inspection, the school had too few resources deployed in classrooms to support learning, particularly within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The school has improved the resources and equipment to support pupils' learning in most phases throughout the school. For example, it has provided text books and reading schemes in English at Key Stages 1 and 2, and science equipment in Key Stages 3 and 4. In addition, there are now three designated sewing rooms with up-to-date equipment. Although some new resources are now being deployed in the Early Years Foundation Stage, these do not offer the children enough opportunities to explore and make choices to adequately develop their skills and knowledge. Consequently, despite some improvement in the provision of resources, this regulation is still not being met, as resources within the Early Years Foundation Stage are still inadequate.

At the last inspection although appropriate checks were carried out to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and the proprietor, these checks were not recorded as required in a single central register.

The school now maintains a comprehensive single central register which records the required details about all staff, supply staff and the proprietor, all of whom have undergone an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check. This regulation is now met in full.

At the last inspection there were weaknesses relating to the fabric of the building and its facilities. These shortcomings related to the washroom facilities, the facilities for pupils who are unwell and the general state of decoration and cleanliness. To address the various difficulties within the fabric of the building, the proprietor instructed a building contractor to increase the number of toilets and washbasins and to install appropriate facilities for pupils who become ill. In addition, the school had plans to redecorate the whole building and to ensure there was an appropriate level of cleanliness.

The school now has a sufficient number of washrooms with six new toilets installed for Key Stages 1 to 4. There are now 16 toilet units within the Early Years Foundation Stage, with an appropriate number of sinks. This regulation is now met in full. The school now has two medical rooms, one in each building, for pupils who are unwell. These two designated rooms contain a bed and a sink with hot running water. In addition, these rooms contain lockable cupboards to store medicines if required. This regulation is now met in full. The school now has a satisfactory standard and adequate maintenance of decoration. The whole building has been recently redecorated and is bright and aesthetically pleasing. The school is now kept in a tidy and clean manner. This regulation is now met in full.

The school has made satisfactory progress towards implementing its action plan and now meets all but one of the regulatory requirements.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010³ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- Further improve the range and quality of resources especially for the Early Years Foundation Stage (paragraph 1(3)(f)).

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Jewish		
Date school opened	1965		
Age range of pupils	3–16		
Gender of pupils	Girls		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 606	Total: 606
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
Annual fees (day pupils)	£0 (voluntary contributions)		
Address of school	79–81 Amhurst Park, London N16 5DL		
Telephone number	0208 802 7470		
Email address	katzbar@gmail.com		
Headteacher	Mrs S Sonnenschein, Headteacher, Senior School Mrs A Katz, Headteacher, Junior School		
Proprietor	Mr Grunfeld		