

Brighton and Hove Montessori School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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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.^{1,2}

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

Brighton and Hove Montessori School is an independent, non-selective, day school for boys and girls aged between two and 11 years. Opened in 1985, it is located in two buildings; a community hall and several rooms in a house. An after-school club caters for children from the school and for some local children, aged from three to 11 years. There are 54 children between the ages of two and seven years attending full time or part time, with the very large majority of these being in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Forty five children are funded under the Nursery funding scheme.

The aims of the school are 'to create and continually develop a learning community where respect for oneself, respect for others and respect for the environment is a reality'. For the individual child, the school aims to 'develop a sound academic base and learning skills for life'.

Context of the inspection

When the school was inspected by Ofsted in June 2010, most regulations were met. In order to address the shortcomings identified in the inspection report, the school drew up an action plan which was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. The purpose of this visit was to monitor the progress made by the school in addressing the action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in June 2010 found that, while the curricular provision and teaching were satisfactory, teaching was not consistently well informed by assessment. Target setting and the tracking of pupils' progress were areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection in 2007 and the school acknowledged that it had not fully addressed them.

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

The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings which was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. Consultants are supporting the implementation of the plan, including members of the local authority Early Years Foundation Stage advisory team who are helping the school to implement and develop lesson planning, assessment procedures and the curriculum. Evidence from this visit shows that improvements in teachers' termly, weekly and daily plans are established and becoming embedded. The school has put a baseline assessment in place and plans to refine this further. Teachers' planning and assessment opportunities link the Montessori curriculum with the appropriate age-related national expectations for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum for pupils in Years 1 and 2. Daily observations are made and records kept of individual pupils' interests and progress, and participation in whole-group activities. The school recognises that refining these observations to highlight the next steps in pupils' learning would strengthen the effectiveness of its assessment practice. The school now meets the requirements of this standard and the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The inspection in June 2010 found that staff, particularly the proprietor as the named child protection officer, had not kept up to date with the required training in child protection. This situation had not been adequately addressed since the previous inspection in 2007; in addition, the school did not comply with the safeguarding requirements of the Childcare Act 2006. The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings which was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. The proprietor attended higher-level child protection training in September 2010 and has provided training for all staff, new and established. All staff are now undertaking further training, some at the higher level. In addition, the proprietor and bursar have undertaken safer recruitment training. The school's child protection policy now meets requirements; it includes the requirement for update training to be attended every two years by the designated persons and every three years by all other staff. All safeguarding requirements of this standard and the Childcare Act 2006 are now met.

When the school was inspected in June 2010, fire safety records did not show whether identified faulty emergency lights had been replaced. In addition, checks on portable electrical appliances had not been made. The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings which was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. Fire records are now up to date and the emergency lighting is now operational. Portable appliance checks were undertaken and documented by a contractor in November 2010. The requirements of the standard are now met.

The inspection in June 2010 found that the school had not checked a member of staff's right to work in the United Kingdom. The school submitted an action plan to address this shortcoming which was evaluated and accepted in September 2010. This visit found that the school has revised its recruitment procedures and checklist and ensured that the necessary information is entered on the single central register. The requirements of the standard to make and record these checks are met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Montessori Primary and Nursery		
Date school opened	2001		
Age range of pupils	2–11		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 5	Girls: 4	Total: 9
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 14	Girls: 17	Total: 31
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 4	Girls: 10	Total: 14
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)	£6,060		
Annual fees (childcare)	£2,985		
Address of school	67 Stanford Avenue, Brighton BN1 6FB		
Telephone number	01273 702485		
Email address	info@brighton-montessori.org.uk		
Headteacher	Daisy Cockburn		
Proprietor	Daisy Cockburn		