

Rainbow School for Autistic Children

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	212/6405
Unique Reference Number (URN)	134145
Inspection number	362868
Inspection dates	18 October 2010
Reporting inspector	Mick Megee

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Purpose and scope of the visit

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002¹, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005².

The visit 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

Rainbow School is an independent day special school situated in London Borough of Wandsworth, in South West London. It opened in 2000, moved to its Earlsfield location in 2002 and was registered in 2003. Since the inspection, the school has opened a secondary department on an additional site on the other side of Wandsworth. The original site now only accommodates pupils up to and including Year 5. The school provides education for up to 20 pupils aged between five and 14 years. Currently there are 20 pupils on roll aged between six and 14, of whom three are girls. All pupils have statements of special educational needs related to autistic spectrum disorder and associated communication difficulties. The pupils are referred and funded by local authorities. The proprietors are the Trustees of the Rainbow Charity for Children with Autism.

The school aims to offer a 'structured programme of intensive intervention' which is supported by the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and in particular Verbal Behaviour (VB), which is a branch of ABA. This focuses primarily on developing functional communication and language acquisition and encompasses social, play and independent skills. Another key aim is to reduce challenging behaviour to allow pupils access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to give pupils the learning skills they need to achieve their academic potential.

Context of the visit

The school was last inspected in May 2010. At the time of that inspection, the school failed to meet two regulations. These involved the quality of the premises and accommodation and the provision of information. The school's subsequent action plan to meet these regulations was evaluated and approved by Ofsted in June 2010. This is the first monitoring visit since the May inspection to check on the progress the school has made in implementing the action plan. The inspector observed the school's work at both sites during the monitoring visit.

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

The inspection of May 2010 found that the school did not meet the requirement to have suitable facilities for pupils who become ill during the school day. The school proposed in its action plan to provide a medical room, equipped with a wash basin and appropriate furniture. At its Earlsfield site, the school has now made available a small room next to the toilets, containing comfortable floor cushions, a wash basin, blankets and a locked medical cupboard. Although the room is sometimes used for other one-to-one activities such as water play, it can be speedily adapted in the event of a child becoming ill. The inspector also visited the new medical room on the second site. This room is not used for any other purpose. The room is spacious, well lit and very well decorated. There is a permanent bed, wash basin and locked medical cabinet. It is immediately adjacent to toilet facilities. As a result of these actions, the school now meets this requirement.

The May 2010 inspection found that the school did not have in place procedures to ensure that local authorities received an annual account of income and expenditure incurred by the school for pupils from their own area. The school proposed in its action plan to provide the required information. The school now has in place an administrative system to ensure that such information is provided every year. The school now meets this regulation.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

Name of school	Rainbow School for Autistic Children		
DCSF number	212/6405		
Unique reference number (URN)	134145		
Type of school	Special school for pupils with autistic spectrum disorder and associated communication difficulties		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	2000		
Age range of pupils	5–14		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 17	Girls: 3	Total: 20
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 17	Girls: 3	Total: 20
Annual fees (day pupils)	£ 49,708.35–£62,000		
Address of school	Primary School: The Tram House 520 Garratt Lane London SW17 0NY Secondary School: 48 North Side Wandsworth Common SW18 2SL		
Telephone number	Primary School: 020 8879 7700 Secondary School: 020 3031 9700		
Fax number	020 8947 5300		
Email address	sallypalmer@rainbowschool.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs Sally Palmer		
Proprietor	The Rainbow Charity for Children with Autism		
Reporting inspector	Dr Mick Megee		
Dates of inspection	18 October 2010		