

Mustard School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland

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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 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

Mustard School is a small Christian school located in Hackney, London. It was established in 1996 by the present proprietor. Nearly all pupils are of Black African heritage. All pupils speak English as their first language. Pupils come from a wide range of backgrounds and attainment on entry is generally average. The school admits boys and girls aged from three to 17 and there are currently 14 pupils on roll. There is one child attending the attached Nursery on a part-time basis and there are no children in Reception. There is one pupil with a statement of special educational needs.

The school has a wide range of objectives, based on ensuring that pupils receive a good Christian education. The school's aim is 'to educate the children with sound academic standards and in the way of the Lord'. The school makes use of the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) programme, supplemented with National Curriculum materials.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in April 2008.

Context of the inspection

When the school was inspected by Ofsted in April 2008, a number of regulations were not met. The action plan submitted to Ofsted by the school to address these shortfalls was judged unsatisfactory in February 2009. At the first progress monitoring visit in May 2009, all but two of the regulations were found to be met. The school received a second monitoring visit in February 2010 and this visit found that while some of these shortfalls had been remedied in the revised child protection policy drawn up in January 2010, others remain unaddressed and the policy did not meet the requirements.

Following the second progress monitoring visit in February 2010, the school submitted an action plan for improvement to the Department on 27 May 2010. The action plan was evaluated on 14 June 2010 and was judged to be satisfactory. This third monitoring visit was made to the school to evaluate its progress in implementing the latest plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The second monitoring visit of February 2010 found that the school's child protection policy lacked a number of required features. It failed to provide essential information and guidance and did not designate members of staff to assume key responsibilities for child protection. The school planned to review and improve the policy.

The school has now updated its child protection policy and practice. A copy of the policy is displayed at the entrance of the school and a hard copy is also available to parents and carers on request. The policy is now in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures agreed through the local safeguarding board; it provides the address and telephone number of the local safeguarding board, together with named officers for contact.

The policy now provides a summary of what constitutes abuse and sets out clearly procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff, including the proprietor, headteacher and all other members of staff who come in contact with pupils. There are also clear procedures for staff to follow when dealing with abuse by pupils against another pupil and how to avoid harming pupils or putting themselves at risk of allegations. This is well supported by the physical restraint policy, which provides staff with clear procedures to follow when physical restraint becomes necessary.

The policy names the designated child protection officer who also takes lead responsibility for safeguarding children within the Early Years Foundation Stage setting. It also makes it clear that the required training in child protection and inter-agency working for the designated person will be updated every two years and that the training for the headteacher and all others involved regularly with pupils will be updated every three years. The proprietor, headteacher and staff have attended safeguarding and child protection training appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.

The headteacher also attended the Safer Recruitment in Education in July 2010 and has carried out checks on new members of staff to ensure that they are suitable people to work with children. The school maintains the required single central register of staff checks, which enables it to verify that all checks are made. The proprietor and headteacher now undertake an annual review of the child protection policies and their application.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Primary and secondary Christian school		
Date school opened	1996		
Age range of pupils	3–17		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 11	Girls: 2	Total: 13
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 1	Girls: 0	Total: 1
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,886–£3,060		
Address of school	Parish Hall, Nuttall Street, London N1 5LR		
Telephone number	020 7739 3499		
Email address	education@mustard.org		
Headteacher	Mr Amos Johnson		
Proprietor	Mrs Faith Johnson		