

Ayesha Siddiqa Girls' School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michèle Messaoudi

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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

Ayesha Siddiqah Girls' School is an independent secondary school for Muslim girls. The school opened in April 2007 and is registered to admit up to 200 pupils between the ages of 11 and 16 years. The school has expanded since its first inspection in 2008 to admit pupils in Years 10 and 11. There are currently 119 pupils on roll. The pupils are of diverse heritages and come from various parts of London. The vast majority are either bilingual or are at an advanced stage of learning English as an additional language. None has a statement of special educational needs. The school is situated in the centre of Southall, in the London Borough of Ealing, and normally occupies two floors of an Islamic Centre. An extensive building and refurbishment programme for the entire building meant that the school operated from a reduced number of rooms on one floor during the academic year 2010 to 2011. From September 2011, the school will occupy the second and third floors of the building. The proprietors run the school as a charitable trust with a governing body and aim to provide an education that is well balanced between National Curriculum subjects and religious teachings according to Islam.

Context of the inspection

The school had an inspection in March 2011 when it was judged to provide a satisfactory quality of education despite shortcomings in curriculum planning. However, its provision for safeguarding pupils' welfare, health and safety was found to be inadequate and the school did not meet a number of the regulations for independent schools relating to the quality of provision for education, welfare and safety of the pupils, arrangements for safeguarding the pupils, suitability of the premises and accommodation and quality of information provided for parents and others. The school submitted an action plan on 26 May 2011 that was accepted by Ofsted on 22 June 2011. This is the first visit to the school to follow up its progress in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection of March 2011 reported that the scheme of work for physical education (PE) was in place but the programme was not well planned or sufficiently regular for Key Stage 4 pupils. The school planned to revise the scheme of work for

PE in Key Stage 4 to provide a wider range of physical activities, to increase the time allocated to PE in Key Stage 4, to make arrangements to use a local sports centre and to purchase additional PE equipment. As a result of implementing the plan, the school provides a suitably planned and varied programme of PE in Key Stage 4. The schemes of work clearly indicate how pupils will progress in their understanding and skills. Key Stage 4 pupils now have two weekly sessions of PE in a local sports centre pending the imminent completion of a new on-site PE hall. An adequate range of resources has been purchased to support pupils' physical development. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection reported that there was no planned provision for history in Key Stage 4. The school planned to prepare long-, medium- and short-term plans for history in Key Stage 4 and to order appropriate resources to support pupils' learning. As a result of these improvements, the provision for history is suitably planned in Key Stage 4, based on commercial schemes of work that indicate continuity of study from Year 10 to Year 11. Teaching is supported by a suitable range of printed and audiovisual resources. This requirement is now met.

In the last inspection, the school was judged to make inadequate provision for safeguarding pupils' welfare, health and safety owing to a lack of rigour in recruitment procedures and insufficient regard to the current guidance on health and safety in schools. Checks on the suitability of some staff had not been undertaken, or not soon enough. Hazards included unrestrained windows on the upper floors, trailing wires and unchecked portable appliances. The school planned to review its recruitment procedures and all the personnel files, as well as its procedures for minimising risks. As a result of implementing its action plan, the school has suitable risk assessments of the premises and practical activities, and robust recruitment procedures. It has remedied all of the hazards and deficiencies mentioned in the last report.

The last inspection reported that the school did not have a written accessibility plan to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The school has prepared a three-year plan that indicates how it will ensure that all pupils, staff and visitors have access to the premises, curriculum and information. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection found that suitability checks had not been carried out on a number of staff and that some checks had not been undertaken soon enough. It also found that although the school had a single central register, it was incomplete because not all staff and governors were included in it. The school planned to review its recruitment procedures, the wording of the employment contract and the layout of the central register to ensure that correct recruitment procedures would be followed. It also planned to update the single central register. As a result of implementing its action plan, the school has rectified all the deficiencies reported in the last inspection. It can now demonstrate that no employment is confirmed until all the required checks have been satisfied.

In the last inspection, the school did not meet all the regulations in respect of the premises. It did not have suitable washroom facilities for staff. Some areas of the building were not suitably clean or tidy. There were no arrangements for safe outside play. The school planned to provide the missing washing facilities as part of the refurbishment programme, to recruit additional cleaners and to have the premises cleaned twice a day. The school planned to timetable longer lunch breaks and to employ additional lunchtime supervisors so that pupils could be taken to the local park to play and have their lunch. Through implementation of the plan, there are now separate washrooms for staff. Classrooms and other parts of the building are tidy and clean and pupils are taken to the park four days a week to play outdoors under proper supervision. The requirements are now met.

The last inspection report indicated that parents and carers were not made aware that some information was available on request. The school website has been appropriately updated to provide the missing details.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Muslim day secondary school
Date school opened	16 April 2007
Age range of pupils	11–16 years
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	119
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	0
Number of pupils who are looked after	0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,500
Address of school	165–169 The Broadway Southall Middlesex UB1 1LS
Telephone number	020 8867 9284
Email address	info@ayeshasiddiqa.org.uk
Headteacher	Ms F Liyawdeen
Proprietor	Islamic Educational and Recreational Institute