

Staleydene Preparatory School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Zahid Aziz

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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

Staleydene Preparatory School is a small, non-selective day school that opened in 2002. It is registered for pupils from age three to 11 years. There are 11 pupils currently on roll, none of whom has a statement of special educational needs. Pupils are taught in two mixed-age classes: a Key Stage 1 class and a Key Stage 2 class. There is one child in the Early Years Foundation Stage who is being taught in the Key Stage 1 class.

The school seeks to provide a friendly, family atmosphere in which pupils can learn and build a strong foundation in basic skills. The school moved to its new premises at Dukinfield Methodist Church, Tameside in January 2012. The school has the use of a large size room for Key Stage 1 which also houses Early Years Foundation Stage resources and a medium size room for Key Stage 2. The church hall is regularly used for school assemblies and pupils have access to an outside grassed play area.

Context of the inspection

The last full inspection of the school was in March 2010. There was an unannounced emergency visit in April 2011 to ascertain whether the failings at the time of that inspection had been addressed by the school. This was followed by a progress monitoring inspection visit in November 2011 to check the progress made with respect to the remaining unmet regulations found in the emergency visit. At that inspection visit, five regulations were still unmet. A further progress monitoring visit was conducted in February 2012. The visit was to determine the progress made by the school with respect to the unmet regulations and whether the school was still open as there had been no response to attempts to contact the school by telephone, email and post. On the day of the planned visit, the premises could not be accessed. It was later confirmed that the school had moved to new premises. This present further progress monitoring visit was made to check the progress the school has made in regard to the unmet regulations. A complaint was also investigated at the time of this visit, at the request of the Department for Education. There was no evidence of any failure to meet the regulations in respect of the complaint. There was a material change inspection visit conducted at the same time as this monitoring

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents.

visit to check the new premises. The material change was not recommended for approval for the full age range of three to 11 years that the school had requested as the provision of indoor activity space and toilets for Early Years Foundation Stage children and the planning for their outdoor activities were inadequate.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The progress monitoring inspection visit of November 2011 found that the school's newly established assessment framework did not include science. The school planned to introduce spreadsheets to record pupils' progress in all subjects. As a result of implementing the plan, arrangements for the assessment and recording of pupils' progress in science have now been implemented satisfactorily.

The November 2011 inspection visit found that the school did not have appropriate facilities for pupils who might be ill, in accordance with the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999. This requirement is now met because the school has moved to new premises where there is a dedicated area used as medical room with close access to a washbasin and WC.

The inspection of November 2011 found that the school did not set a clear direction and vision for the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school has produced an Early Years Foundation Stage vision statement but this does not include guidance on the use of the outdoor area.

The inspection visit of November 2011 found that adults looking after the children did not have appropriate qualifications. The requirement for the second adult working with the children to have a full and relevant qualification is now met as the required training course was completed in February 2012.

The inspection visit of November 2011 reported that no member of staff had attended paediatric first aid training, as required for the Early Years Foundation Stage provision. This course has now been successfully completed by the headteacher in November 2011. Therefore, this requirement for the Early Years Foundation Stage is now met.

The material change visit found that the school did not have sufficient activity space and toilet provision for the proposed additional 12 Early Years Foundation Stage children, so that the school's premises did not comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage welfare requirements in this respect.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet the following requirements.

In order to comply with the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the school must:

- set a clear direction and vision for the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage which includes adequate guidance on the use of the outdoor provision
- complete the planning and implementation of a curriculum to cover all six areas of learning that fully meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework; include sufficient regular opportunities and experiences for children to learn outdoors.

In order to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the school must:

- ensure that there is at least one toilet and one hand basin for every ten children over the age of two
- provide adequate space to give scope for free movement and well-spread activities.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Preparatory day school		
Date school opened	January 2002		
Age range of pupils	3–11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 6	Girls: 5	Total: 11
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: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£3,500		
Address of school	Dukinfield Methodist Church Wellington Parade Dukinfield Cheshire, SK16 4LE		
Telephone number	07864 909754		
Email address	staleydeneprep@yahoo.co.uk		
Headteacher	Michele Ogbogu		
Proprietor	Mr and Mrs Ogbogu		