

Mustard School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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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

Mustard School is a small Christian school for boys and girls from the age of two to 19 years. It was established in 1996 by the present proprietor and it is located in the London Borough of Hackney. There are currently 26 pupils on roll, aged from two to 14 years. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, there are 10 children on roll and none is in receipt of government nursery education funding. Three children are aged from two to three years and attend part time. Nearly all pupils are of Black African heritage. All pupils speak English as their first language. There is one pupil with a statement of special educational needs. There is after-school childcare provision for pupils from 3.30pm until 5.30pm each day during term time. The school provides free education to a number of pupils whose parents or carers face challenging circumstances. The school has a wide range of objectives based on a Christian education which aims to 'educate the children with sound academic standards and in the way of the Lord'.

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2011 when it met most, but not all, of the regulations and other requirements. The school's first action plan to address these shortcomings was evaluated in February 2012 and judged to be inadequate. The second action plan was evaluated in April 2012 and also found to be inadequate. This monitoring visit was made at the request of the Department for Education to check the school's progress in addressing the shortcomings identified in the previous inspection.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

When the inspection took place in November 2011, the school had recently changed its curriculum for Key Stages 3 and 4 from the ACE programmes to the National Curriculum and religious education. While the provision was judged satisfactory, the inspection team found that the required plans and schemes of work were incomplete

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

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

and the school's curriculum policy had a number of omissions, particularly in respect of the breadth and balance of the curriculum offered. Inspectors found that the school had not established a sufficiently well-structured framework for assessing pupils' attainment and progress at Key Stages 3 and 4. As a result, some teachers were insufficiently informed about pupils' prior attainment and learning needs, which impacted adversely on the quality of teaching and learning. The school submitted proposals in an action plan to address these shortcomings, which were evaluated in February 2012 and found to be inadequate; although some plans and schemes were acceptable, there were major omissions in others. Revised proposals were evaluated in April 2012 and also judged inadequate because the school had not addressed key areas in its curriculum policy or in all its plans and schemes, for example in English and physical education at Key Stages 3 and 4.

In the intervening period between the inspection and this visit, the school advised the Department for Education that it would be reverting to the ACE programmes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Both the action plan evaluations and this inspection visit took account of these changes, some of which were implemented during the current school year. Notwithstanding, this inspection visit found that the school has made inadequate progress and the regulations failed at the time of the last inspection remain unmet. For example, the school's revised curriculum policy does not make clear the provision for pupils at different key stages; there is little guidance provided about how the breadth and balance of the curriculum is ensured through provision of subjects outside the ACE programmes to ensure that pupils have experience in all the required areas of learning; and the school's framework for assessment provides only for end-of-course testing or external examination. The scheme for physical education at Key Stages 3 and 4 focuses on theoretical concepts, such as maintaining health and fitness, and does not make provision for pupils to actively and regularly participate in a suitable range of physical activity. Plans seen made no reference to the individual needs of pupils or their prior attainment. The regulations in this standard remain unmet; the school has made inadequate progress and the timescale for implementing its action plan proposals is inadequate.

The inspection in November 2011 found that the school did not provide sponsoring local authorities with an annual account of the income received and expenditure made in respect of pupils with statements of special educational needs. In its first action plan, the school indicated that it had addressed this shortcoming and this inspection visit confirms that this requirement is now met.

With regard to the Early Years Foundation Stage and the school's childcare provision, the inspection in November 2011 found that not all staff were suitably qualified to work with young children. The school's first action plan proposed an appropriate course with an external provider. Evidence seen on this inspection confirms that a named person is undertaking a suitable course, with assignments being regularly submitted and assessed. While the requirement has yet to be met because the course has not been completed and the qualification gained, the school's progress in implementing its action plan proposals is satisfactory.

During the course of this inspection visit, it was found that the school does not maintain its admission register in accordance with requirements. There are, for example, a number of instances where no date has been entered for when a pupil has left the school; in addition, the requirement to maintain an alphabetical index of pupils is not met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010³ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that there is a curriculum policy set out in writing which is supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, and that it is implemented effectively (paragraph 2(1))
- ensure that teachers show a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, and that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons (paragraph 3(d))
- ensure that there is a framework in place in Key Stages 3 and 4 to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly, and that information from such assessment is utilised to plan teaching so that pupils can make progress (paragraph 3(g))
- maintain the school's admission register in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006⁴ (paragraph 17).

In order to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school must ensure that all staff are suitably qualified.

In order to meet the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006, those who provide the registered provision for children under the age of three must ensure that all staff are suitably qualified.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made.

⁴ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/contents/made.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Christian primary and secondary		
Date school opened	1996		
Age range of pupils	2–17 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 16	Girls: 10	Total: 26
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 2	Girls: 1	Total: 3
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 1	Girls: 0	Total: 1
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£600 – £3,820 and £18,750 for pupils with highly challenging behaviour		
Annual fees (childcare)	£145 Per Week		
Address of school	Parish Hall, Nuttall Street, London N1 5LR		
Telephone number	020 7739 3499		
Email address	education@mustard.org		
Headteacher	Amos Johnson		
Proprietor	Faith Johnson		