

Rise Education

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

Rise Education is situated in Mitcham in the London Borough of Merton. The school is managed by a board of trustees as part of a limited company, Immanuel House. The school was registered and opened in February 2010 and provides an education for students who are at risk of permanent exclusion from mainstream schools. There are currently 15 students aged from 14 to 16 years on roll, including three students who attend school on a part-time basis. Students are referred to the school by Wandsworth and Merton local authorities. One student has a statement of special educational needs. There is currently one student who is looked after by his local authority.

The school has a Christian ethos. The headteacher is also a pastor of a local church. The school's aims reflect the letters in its name: 'restoring, inspiring, sustaining and empowering individuals to reach their potential'.

Context of the inspection

The school was first inspected in February 2012 when a number of regulations were not met, including shortcomings in welfare, health and safety, and the premises and accommodation. The school drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report. This was evaluated in May 2011 and was judged to be satisfactory.

This is the report of the first monitoring visit undertaken in order to evaluate the progress made by the school towards implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection of February 2012 reported that the provision for students' welfare, health and safety was inadequate because the procedures to recruit and ensure that staff were suitable to work with children lacked rigour. The school had written policies and procedures which outlined the necessary checks on the recruitment and the suitability of staff. However, the absence of senior leaders and the high levels of staff turnover had resulted in a number of omissions in the school's procedures so that the required checks had not been completed on all members of staff before they started work. The single central register was incomplete and did not meet requirements. The school did not store cleaning chemicals and materials safely. For

one day a week there was no suitably trained and qualified first aider on the school site.

In response, the school has updated its child protection policy and recruitment procedures, which now record the name of the school's designated person. The school has also reviewed the information obtained on its staff. The Criminal Records Bureau checks are completed for all members of staff and certificates are obtained. All the required vetting checks are completed on all members of staff to ensure their suitability to work with children. The single central register is in place and this records all the necessary information on the checks on all members of staff and the proprietorial body. All hazardous cleaning materials are now securely stored in a locked cupboard. There are now four certified first aiders in school to attend to students' needs and to cover for staff absences and school trips.

The earlier inspection noted that there was no appropriate facility on site for students who were ill. Students had access to areas to play a variety of table games to relax but there was limited outdoor space available. The school now ensures that there is a suitable designated area with a washbasin for students who might become unwell during the school day and this is located reasonably near washroom facilities. The school now provides students with appropriate and regular access to an enlarged outdoor area on the site and to a local park for recreation and physical activities, so that this provision now meets requirements.

The previous inspection report identified weaknesses in the school's complaints policy and procedures. These shortcomings have been remedied. The school has revised its complaints policy and procedures, which now meet the requirements.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Secondary school for students who are at risk of permanent exclusion from mainstream schools		
Date school opened	February 2010		
Age range of pupils	13–16 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 11	Girls: 1	Total: 12
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 1	Girls: 2	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: 1	Girls: 0	Total: 1
Annual fees (day pupils)	£8,000 – £10,800		
Address of school	Units 1–3 37–39 Western Road Mitcham CR4 3ED		
Telephone number	020 8648 6088		
Email address	immanuel.house@btconnect.com		
Headteacher	Mr J Kerson		
Proprietor	Immanuel House Limited		