

Ayesha Siddiqah Girls School

165-169 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex UB1 1LS

Inspection dates

24 September 2013

Context of the inspection

The Department for Education (DfE) asked Ofsted to carry out this inspection. The purpose is to check the school's progress in implementing its action plan for meeting the regulations for independent schools not met at the previous monitoring inspection in February 2013. The DfE asked Ofsted to examine the school's uniform policy as part of this inspection.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

The school has made progress in implementing most of the regulations which were failed at the emergency inspection in February 2013. Only one regulation is now not met.

The emergency inspection of February 2013 found that admission and attendance registers were not kept correctly and that not all of the required checks on the suitability of staff were carried out and recorded in the school's single central register of these checks. Admission and attendance registers now meet requirements. All are completed to the required standard and have the necessary detail. All safeguarding checks are carried out on staff and meet requirements. Staff files contain the required recruitment checks and information, including evidence of enhanced criminal records checks. The single central register of staff checks now meets requirements.

The emergency inspection found that the toilets did not have the required facilities and that there were no changing facilities or showers for students to use after physical education (PE). Since the emergency inspection, the toilets have been refurbished to a good standard and have hot water, toilet paper and soap provided. The governors have put in suitable changing accommodation and some showers for students to use after PE but there are not enough of them, given the number of students in classes from Year 7 to Year 11.

At the time of the emergency inspection, the school did not have a medical room. The school has now created a suitable medical room with a washing facility that is near to a toilet.

The emergency inspection found that the school did not provide a labelled supply of drinking water, and there were no outdoor facilities for recreation or for PE. Drinking water supplies are now clearly marked on each floor of the school. Students have access to drinking water throughout the school day. The school does not have outdoor play or PE facilities on the site because it is situated at the centre of the town. Students go to the local park for PE and a comprehensive risk assessment makes sure they are well supervised and safe. Weather permitting, students can eat their lunch in the local park and use the recreational facilities there. A large new hall is being constructed on the fourth

floor of the building which will be used for PE and wet-weather lunch time activities.

The school was found to have no recording system for complaints. It now has suitable procedures for dealing with complaints and a written record is ready for use. There have been no complaints since the inspection in February 2013.

All staff and students are clear about the schools' uniform policy. Students from Year 7 to Year 13 confirmed that they are not required or forced to wear the veil (face covering). One Year 13 who has been in the school since Year 7 says that during her time at the school, students have never been required to wear the veil. A Year 7 student, new to the school, was clear that the requirement is to wear an *abaya* (ankle length, loose fitting dress) and a headscarf. All students say they can choose to wear the veil if they would like to. Senior teachers confirmed that a few students choose to wear the veil if a man is visiting the school.

The school's managers agreed that the information in the school uniform policy and in the school's information for parents is confusing because both refer to students wearing the *burka* (a full body covering which can include a veil). They agreed to change the information in both documents and to include a photograph of the uniform items on a mannequin so that parents and students are clear about what is required.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school requires improvement and must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Regulations'), and associated requirements

Provide suitable changing accommodation and showers for pupils aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education. 23A(1)(c)

Inspection team

Julie Winyard, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Ayesha Siddiqa Girls School is an independent secondary school for Muslim girls. The school opened in April 2007 and is registered to admit up to 200 students between the ages of 11 and 18. There are currently 89 on roll. The students 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, normally occupying two floors of the Islamic Centre. Refurbishment has been underway for the last two years. This is due for completion
- The proprietors run the school as a charitable trust with a governing body and aim to provide an education for its students that conforms to the National Curriculum and incorporates religious teachings according to Islam. The school's last full inspection was in March 2011. At that time, it failed to meet a number of regulations. A progress monitoring visit took place in September 2011 to check the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan. At that time, the school was found to meet all the regulations for independent schools. An unannounced emergency inspection, requested by the Department for Education (DfE), took place in February 2013 in response to a complaint regarding the conditions of the premises. The school was found to be failing a number of the regulations.

School details

Unique reference number	135155
Inspection number	428278
DfE registration number	307/6338
This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.	
Type of school	Muslim secondary day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11–18
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	89
Number of part time pupils	None
Proprietor	Islamic Educational and Recreational Institute
Chair	Mr Hafiz Bhatti
Headteacher	Ms F Liyawdeen
Date of previous school inspection	25 February 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2250 - £3250
Telephone number	0208 867 9284
Fax number	N/A
Email address	info@ayeshasiddiqa.org.uk

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