

Al-Ashraf Primary School

Al-Ashraf Cultural Centre, Stratton Road, Gloucester, GL1 4HB

Inspection dates

29 January 2015

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards identified

Reason for the inspection

- The inspection was conducted at no notice. Inspectors were asked to look into the quality of the curriculum, equal opportunities and the use of language on the school's website.
- Inspectors were requested to consider whether the independent school standards contained in Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and Part 8 are met.

Main findings

- Girls and boys have equal access to all parts of the curriculum.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced and reflects the needs of pupils well. In particular, there is effective teaching of spoken and written English.
- There is a minor limitation in the breadth of the music and art curricula. The new scheme of work for art emphasises a wider range of activity and skills and techniques. Singing only is permitted within the music programmes of work. There is no instrumental composition or musical appreciation taught.
- A range of visits enriches the history and geography lessons. All classes visit other schools for a day during the academic year. These opportunities make a good contribution to pupils' preparation for secondary school and their understanding of life in modern Britain.
- The headteacher and staff demonstrate a strong determination to open pupils' minds to the richness of other cultures. The school visit programme is a vital part of preparing them for modern day British society. A comprehensive programme of teaching in European and British history supports their understanding in this area.
- There is strong platform for pupils' moral development through the teaching in both the secular and the Islamic curriculum. Assemblies and the personal, social, health and citizenship education programme provide chances for pupils to discuss a range of issues affecting modern British society. In these lessons they learn how to stay safe and how to protect themselves from bullying.
- Pupils are encouraged to make choices and take decisions for themselves. They are thoroughly involved in fundraising for British-based charities.
- The safeguarding procedure is robust. All staff have received basic awareness training. Day-to-day safeguarding matters are dealt with according to local procedures.
- The policy, however, is not up to date and there are omissions that do not reflect the current statutory guidance. The school's child protection and safeguarding policy does not provide a secure framework as set out in the *Keeping Children Safe in Education* guidance published in April 2014. There is no reference to how the school aims to help pupils feel safe and adopt safe practices. The policy does not alert staff, parents and others to the existence of specific safeguarding issues, including child sexual exploitation, cyber bullying, domestic violence, forced marriage and radicalisation.
- The policy does not set out additional training for staff to help them identify these types of abuse.
- The policy does not detail how governors will handle any allegations against members of staff and volunteers. Neither is there reference to how the impact of the policy will be evaluated.

- The school ensures that pupils are taught to respect British law and to respect and value those from different cultural backgrounds and with different beliefs. Lessons are planned well to include a mix of discussion and debate as well as research to help pupils secure their own moral perspective on these matters.
- Pupils mix freely during the school day. They play safely and happily together. There is a positive work ethos and pupils feel safe at school.
- A decision to hold separate pupil performances for 'mums' and 'dads' was taken without consulting parents or considering the implications for pupils' understanding of equal opportunities. This runs counter to British democratic principles. The Chair of the Trust Board recognises that the decision was taken without reference to the board.
- The headteacher accepted that some of the wording on the website used to illustrate the content of the Islamic curriculum was open to interpretation. Some of the language did not reflect the efforts of the headteacher and the governors to promote mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The headteacher agreed that the website had not been reviewed for some time and is now currently under review.

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements

- Ensure that the proprietor actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs (paragraphs 5, 5(a))
- Ensure the proprietor encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act (paragraph 5(b)(vi)).
- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and that such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraphs 7, 7(a), (7b))
- Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role; and that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b))
- Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraph 34(1)(c)).

Inspection team

Jonathan Palk, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Helen Griffiths

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- Al-Ashraf Primary School is an independent Muslim day school. It opened in September 2006. The school is registered for 180 pupils. Currently, there are 178 boys and girls on roll, aged from four to 11 years.
- The school is located in the Al-Ashraf Cultural Centre, a three-storey building close to the centre of Gloucester. It shares its premises and management with the Al-Ashraf Nursery, which is separately registered.
- The large majority of pupils are of Indian or Pakistani heritage, with smaller numbers from a range of different backgrounds. Very few pupils are in the early stages of learning English.
- The school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements for Reception children and the English National Curriculum in Key Stages 1 and 2, supplemented by daily Islamic education sessions.
- There are no pupils who have a statement of special educational needs. The school has identified a small number of pupils who are disabled or who have special educational needs.
- The school aims to deliver education in stimulating and challenging ways, and to create tolerant individuals who respect and appreciate others, their cultural background, feelings and views from an Islamic perspective.
- There is one headteacher who leads the primary and secondary schools. There is a deputy headteacher who has day-to-day responsibility for the primary school.
- The nursery was inspected at the same time as this emergency inspection of the primary and secondary schools. It is reported on separately.
- The school's last standard inspection was in June 2014. Its overall effectiveness was good. The school met schedule 1 of The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

School details

Unique reference number	135097
Inspection number	461446
DfE registration number	916/6081

This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

Type of school	Muslim day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	178
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Al-Madani Educational Trust
Chair	Mr Shahid M Vaid
Headteacher	Mufti Abdullah Patel
Date of previous school inspection	17–19 June 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£650–£1000
Telephone number	01452 503533
Email address	admin@al-ashraf.gloucs.sch.uk

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Raising concerns and making a complaint about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/complaints-about-ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.



You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when and as part of the inspection.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/user>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

