

# Ayasofia Primary School

130 Cavell St, London, E1 2JA

## Inspection dates

10 March 2015

## Overall outcome

**Unmet independent school standards identified**

## Reason for the inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education following a complaint received raising concerns about leadership and management, safeguarding and a decline in achievement due to weak teaching.
- The inspector was asked to report against regulations contained within Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 of the independent school standards.
- This inspection was conducted without notice.

## Main findings

- At the end of 2014, the school experienced significant turbulence in terms of staffing with a new senior leader and three new teachers joining the school in January 2015. This has resulted in an inconsistency of approach and a decline in the quality of provision.
- Leaders do not appreciate the importance of meeting the independent school standards in order to run an effective, safe and successful school.
- The school uses commercial schemes to structure its secular curriculum, which it delivers alongside Islamic studies. However, teachers do not adapt these schemes in order to meet the needs of pupils of different abilities within the context of this particular school. As a result, lessons are not well planned to ensure that all pupils make the most progress possible. The school sets aside time for a broad range of subjects to be studied but, in practice, pupils complete very little work in subjects relating to human and social or aesthetic and creative education. Therefore, learning in these areas is narrow and lacks depth.
- School leaders were unable to provide inspectors with information about provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage, showing how the school addresses the required areas of learning. The learning environment for these pupils is poor as there is little natural light. In addition, there is no provision for outdoor learning in lessons although pupils are taken to the park for outdoor play at lunchtime.
- Systems are in place to track pupils' progress, and regular assessments are undertaken to inform teachers and leaders of the attainment of pupils. However, the system in place for tracking pupil achievement has not been updated for almost a year, so leaders do not have a view of current achievement of pupils.
- Pupils' work is poorly presented and rarely marked. Books contain ripped pages, doodles and scribbles alongside work. Very little feedback to pupils in books provides useful information on how to improve their work. Many topic books have not been marked at all this school year, showing that teachers do not value these areas of the curriculum. Pupils know that they can get away with completing work of a poor standard.
- The school's safeguarding systems and procedures are not robust and, as a result, render pupils vulnerable. The safeguarding policy published on the school website is outdated, and the revised version has yet to be agreed by governors. Therefore, it is not clear which procedures should be followed in the case of any concerns being raised. The school's last Ofsted report, from May 2014, is not posted on the school website. Instead, a previous report from 2011 is displayed.

- Security of the building is lax, with entrance doors left unlocked at times, and inconsistency in procedures followed when visitors arrive.
- Policies and procedures relating to health and safety, fire safety and first aid, are not rigorous. There is no risk assessment policy, although risk assessments are in place for school activities. Fire drills are held, but not regularly enough. First aid provision is in place, and staff members hold relevant qualifications, but the policy does not provide all the details required. For example, there is no guidance on actions to take if there is a spillage of body fluids. Staff members use pupil toilet facilities, and direct visitors towards these too. This puts pupils at risk.
- The school has a behaviour policy which promotes positive behaviour and provides guidance for staff on reconciliation techniques to use when pupils fall out with each other. However, there is no clear system for rewards and sanctions to be implemented. This results in inconsistency of approach and, as a result, behaviour is poor both in and out of lessons. Pupils are boisterous during break times and scuffles break out.
- The school is required to maintain an admission register and attendance registers. These are incomplete and do not record all the information required. For example, the admission register does not record the dates on which pupils join or leave the school. It does not record the gender of the pupils. A number of pupils do not have parents' names or contact details recorded, or even an address where the pupil lives. In an emergency, staff have no consistent record of family details. Attendance registers are incomplete and absence is not followed up with sufficient rigour. As a result, pupils are at risk of going missing from education.
- The school carries out all the necessary checks on staff when they are first employed. These checks are recorded on a single document. The school does not, however, record the dates on which checks are made, as they are required to do.

### Compliance with regulatory requirements

#### **The school requires improvement and must take action to meet the schedule to The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements**

- The proprietor must ensure that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work is drawn up and implemented effectively; and that the written policy, plans and schemes of work take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils (paragraphs 2(1), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b)(i)).
- The proprietor must ensure provision of full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education (paragraphs 2(2), 2(2)(a)).
- The proprietor must ensure provision, for pupils below compulsory school age, of a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills (paragraph 2(2)(f)).
- The proprietor must ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress (paragraph 2(2)(h)).
- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught (paragraphs 3, 3(a)).
- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time (paragraph 3(c)).
- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons (paragraph 3(d)).
- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught paragraph 3(e)).

- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress (paragraph 3(g)).
- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school utilises effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly (paragraph 3(h)).
- The proprietor must 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), and 7(b)).
- The proprietor must promote good behaviour amongst pupils by ensuring that a written behaviour policy is drawn up that, amongst other matters, sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupil misbehaviour and that the policy is implemented effectively (paragraphs 9, 9(a), 9(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy (paragraph 11).
- The proprietor must ensure compliance with the regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 12).
- The proprietor must ensure that first aid is administered in a timely and competent manner by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written first aid policy (paragraph 13).
- The proprietor must ensure that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (paragraph 15).
- The proprietor must ensure that the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified (paragraphs 16, 16(a), 16(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the register recording checks made in relation to each member of staff appointed on or after 1st May 2007 includes the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraphs 21(1), 21(3)).
- The proprietor must ensure that particulars of the arrangements for meeting the standard contained in paragraph 7 (as above) are published on the school's internet website or, where no such website exists, are provided to parents on request (paragraph 32(1) (c)).
- The proprietor must ensure that a copy of the report of the inspection is published and maintained on the school's internet website (paragraph 32 (1) (d)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the persons with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge relevant to their role, and fulfil these responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraph 34(1)(c)).

## Inspection team

Gaynor Roberts, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- Ayasofia Primary School is located in Whitechapel, East London. The school was established in April 2009, and its proprietor is Cityside Primary Trust.
- Ayasofia Primary is an independent co-educational Muslim school for pupils aged from four to 11 years of age.
- There are 100 full-time pupils on roll. Years 1 and 2 are taught as a mixed-age class. The school opened a Reception class in September 2014.
- Pupils come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, although the majority are of Bangladeshi heritage. A small number of pupils speak English as an additional language.
- The proportion of pupils who are disabled or have special educational needs is below average. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan.
- The last full inspection took place in February 2014. At that time, the school was judged to be adequate. The school failed to meet regulations with regard to the provision of toilets for the sole use of pupils, and the provision of external lighting.
- The aim of the school is to 'provide a unique and balanced curriculum which promotes moral, spiritual, academic, social, emotional, physical, cultural and professional excellence'.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	136084
<b>Inspection number</b>	463616
<b>DfE registration number</b>	211/6090

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.

<b>Type of school</b>	Primary school
<b>School status</b>	Independent school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–11 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	100
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Cityside Primary Trust
<b>Chair</b>	Mohammed Umair
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mohammed Umair
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	25–27 February 2015
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£2,250
<b>Telephone number</b>	0207 247 4928
<b>Email address</b>	info@ayasofiaprimary.com

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