

Ayasofia Primary School

130 Cavell Street, London, E1 2JA

Inspection dates

9 July 2015

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards identified

Reason for the inspection

- This inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education, the registration authority for independent schools. The sole purpose of the inspection was to check the school's meeting of the independent school standard relating to the keeping of admission and attendance registers.
- This inspection was conducted without notice. The headteacher was not present during the on-site visit. However, he had a telephone conversation with the inspector later that evening and subsequently sent additional evidence for consideration.
- On the day of this inspection the school was open for parents to visit. There were no lessons taking place.

Main findings

- During the inspection, the assistant headteacher showed the inspector two different versions of the school's admission register. These were held on two different laptop computers. Neither version met requirements. Following the on-site visit, the headteacher submitted a third version of the admissions register. He insisted that this was the up-to-date and most accurate version. While this version contains more detail than the two versions seen on-site, it still does not meet requirements. The register is not indexed alphabetically. The register only records the month and year of pupils' admissions and departure, whereas the day, month and year are all required. Pupils' genders are not recorded. The register only contains the name of the school last attended, whereas both the name and address are required. Parental contact details are recorded, as are home addresses for all but one pupil. However, entries for some pupils' home addresses contain spelling errors. No previous school is listed for 10 pupils. Rather, the register simply says 'abroad' or gives the name of the country they came from. Almost a third of all pupils' previous education is described as 'home school'. Many of these pupils joined the school in January 2015.
- A number of individual omissions and errors were found during a sampling scrutiny by the inspector. One Year 6 pupil, who is recorded in the attendance register as being present in school, was not included in the admissions register. One Year 5 pupil is recorded as joining the school in January 2015, but the attendance register shows that he attended the school in December 2014.
- The school had told the Department for Education that an electronic registration system was introduced in March 2015. This inspection found that handwritten registers are still in use throughout the school. Pupils' names are not always written in full. In some cases, the names on the attendance register vary to those stated in the admissions register. In every class register, many absences are shown without teachers recording any reason for pupils' non-appearances. This means that the school cannot account for many pupils' whereabouts when these pupils are absent from school.
- Because of its failure to keep admissions and attendance registers in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (c), the independent school standard

relating to admissions and attendance is unmet by the school. This is a serious safeguarding concern.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

- Ensure that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (paragraph 15).

Inspection team

Mark Phillips, 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.
- The school's admissions register suggests that there are around 90 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 educational needs or an education, health and care plan.
- 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'.
- 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.
- An emergency inspection took place on 10 March 2015, following a complaint received. The latter raised concerns about leadership and management, safeguarding and a decline in achievement due to weak teaching. A number of the independent school standards were found to be unmet, including the requirement to ensure that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.
- In response to the findings of this emergency inspection, the Department for Education asked the school to submit an action plan to address the unmet regulations. This plan was judged to require improvement.

School details

Unique reference number	136084
Inspection number	465499
DfE registration number	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.

Type of school	Primary
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	90* *Because of inaccuracies in the admissions register, it is not possible to confirm the exact number on roll.
Number of part time pupils	Unclear
Proprietor	Cityside Primary Trust
Chair	Mohammed Umair
Headteacher	Mohammed Umair
Date of previous school inspection	10 March 2015
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,250
Telephone number	0207 247 4928
Email address	info@ayasofiaprimary.com

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