

Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah

Inspection report for boarding school

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Inspector	Lynn O'Driscoll / Anthony Kyem
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Date of last inspection	18 November 2005

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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah is an independent Muslim boarding school which is registered with the Department for Education and Skills for 170 boys aged between 11 and 21 years. There are currently 158 students of which 97 are boarders and 40 are over 18 years. There are no students with statements of special educational needs and none who are physically disabled. It moved to its current premises in June 2006 but the extensive building work is still not fully completed.

Summary

This judgement was reached following a three day visit to the school by two inspectors. During this time, 48 questionnaires from boarders were completed and collated and a full fire evacuation procedure was observed. Records were examined, students and staff spoken to, and a full tour of the premises, inside and out accompanied by students was undertaken. Meals were taken at different times of the day and evening and free time was observed. At the start and end of the process meetings took place with representatives of the management team and the trustees.

The overall quality rating is inadequate.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were 37 recommended actions made at the last full inspection in May 2004. The school management team stated that there are currently no guardian arrangements in respect to students under 18 years, so three of these actions no longer applied. A further three applied to the previous building and three were not assessed in detail on this occasion. Of the remainder, 13 have been met in full but nine still need further attention and six have not been addressed at all. A new 'Academic Board' has recently been established comprising of the Principal, the Head of Care and two Deputies who are now responsible for ensuring all the Regulations and National Minimum Standards are adhered to. They recognise 'there is still a long way to go', but stressed that, 'we are still learning but our objective is to improve. We have prioritised health and safety issues-children's welfare must improve'.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Overall the school does not adequately promote young people's health. The students were clear what to do if they felt unwell and they felt more comfortable to approach the designated older student in the middle of the night rather than a supervisor. He told the inspectors he is also responsible for checking poorly students during the day and assured them this does not adversely affect his studies. Not all students, however, were registered with a local doctor and some reported a delay in being sent to a doctor. The policies are not specific to the school. Individual files did not include sufficient detail to ensure boarders health and welfare is safeguarded and promoted. There was a lack of recorded evidence of communication with parents. There were still no welfare plans in place for those boarders with special needs. A number of staff are trained in first aid so minor injuries can be treated quickly. The accident and first aid records, however, do not specify the nature of the injury or the reason for the emergency treatment being given. Similarly, medication is administered by a student who is trained in the safe handling of medication, but records were only available from January 2007.

These do not include the reason for administering the medication or the stock balance. The medical officer is still not signing off the medication records, confirming appropriate entries. The school does not have a written policy, which covers the arrangements in place for the safe administration, storage, recording, handling and disposal of medication. On the day of this inspection the sick bay was unlocked, the window was wide open and a quantity of paracetamol was found in an unlocked cupboard. This is unsafe practice and was addressed immediately. The majority of students were unhappy with the choice of mid-week meals provided and the fact that they are not given a drink with their meal. In contrast they liked the weekend meals. Consequently there is a lot of waste and boarders consume too many unhealthy snacks. The Trustees are looking at providing a buffet style meal service to include a more extensive range of healthy options. There is good evidence that they are listening to boarders and as an example, have recently changed suppliers following complaints about the quality of the meat. A sufficient number of staff are trained in basic food hygiene. Despite an increase in domestic hours, there remains poor standards of hygiene and cleaning throughout the building.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Overall the arrangements in place for ensuring boarders, staff and visitors to the school are kept safe, are inadequate. A countering bullying policy is in place which includes all the issues as outlined in the National Minimum Standards. A number of boarders reported that they had been bullied at this school or had seen others being bullied but there is only one entry in the sanctions book from January to June 2007 in respect to bullying. Most boarders had told a teacher or an elder student who responded appropriately, but some have suffered in silence. The school's child protection policy does not dovetail with Bolton's Local Authority's procedures but by the end of June 2007 all staff will have received safeguarding training from this Council. Allegation records are not suitably maintained. Since January 2007 a designated senior member of staff has taken on this responsibility and was clear about his new role. Records of sanctions are poor and there are no restraint recordings. Incident records do not show outcomes. None of the staff are trained in managing challenging behaviours and physical interventions. Inspectors were told that supervisors and older students are not allowed to impose sanctions but must report any incidents to the Principal the next morning. Completed questionnaires from boarders, however, would suggest that disciplinary measures are used, including having to sleep on the floor in the prayer hall for missing prayers. In general, the boys at this school are particularly well behaved. Most of the students confirmed that the rules in the school are fair but a few felt that some sanctions were 'harsh'. In particular, students reported that if they miss prayers their fourth weekend home is cancelled. This was raised with the management team who said that this is used as a threat but is never enforced. Second, they stated that students can go home any weekend as long as they have parental permission and safe transport. They gave assurances that all boarders and their parents would be informed of this. The inspectors were shown seven recorded complaints from boarders since January 2007 with satisfactory outcomes, but no centralised log is maintained. There have also been two serious complaints since the last inspection. These were taken seriously and appropriate actions taken, but these actions and outcomes have not been recorded. The current fire safety arrangements in place do not adequately protect boarders from the risk of fire. The inspectors observed an early morning fire drill. It was an older student that took responsibility for this rather than the supervisors. The process was much more efficient than the previous inspection but no members of staff ensured that the building was empty before leaving themselves. None of the staff have received fire safety training in the last 12 months. The staff files examined on this occasion were in good

order and the matters raised by the Ofsted inspectors on 1 May 2007 have been satisfactorily addressed. Criminal record bureau checks have recently been sought on the four older students with additional responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

As the building is incomplete, there is currently a limited range of leisure facilities available for the boarders within the school. At the present time they have a common room with pool and air hockey, table tennis and an outdoor football pitch. Planning permission has been sought to create another football pitch and a grassed playing area within the grounds of the school. As the prayer hall has still not been completed, the indoors sports hall is also used for prayers, so the school have arranged sessions at the local leisure centre to ensure all the boys get sufficient physical exercise. Relationships between staff and boarders at this school are particularly good. Most boarders reported that they would go to a teacher first if they were worried about something. They would also happily approach an older student. The role of the new independent listener, however, is unclear.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

There are a number of ways in which students can make their views known. The school operates a school council where all age groups are represented. There is also a suggestion box for students and a comment book. Recent issues raised were about the quality of the food which was addressed. There are two private phone booths which are used to contact family and friends, although now most boarders have a mobile. They can also e-mail under supervision. The majority of boarders confirmed in writing that they can meet up with friends, but some commented that, 'they cant visit us'. The school has recently bought a house close by where visitors can stay, which is an excellent resource. The overwhelming issue was thinking that they could only go home every fourth weekend and then only for a short period of time. This has now been clarified and the boys are thrilled.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is satisfactory.

The building is a significant improvement on the previous site and the new extension is being built to a high standard, but it is still not completed to include outdoor leisure facilities, a prayer hall and more toilets and showers. Consequently the boarders aged between 11 and 13 have cramped living accommodation and insufficient storage space. Bunk beds are still being used for boarders beyond year nine and there are no suitable changing facilities for use in the day. This does not meet National Minimum Standards. The washing and toileting facilities are quite basic and the standards of hygiene is poor. One sink in a dormitory was full of old food, which poses a health risk. The boys are particularly looking forward to increased indoor and outdoor leisure facilities and equipment. They want to play cricket and badminton but there is a delay in getting planning permission. The school have already purchased equipment for the new gymnasium. Plans are underway to improve security. Electronic gates are being installed operated by the office which is to be relocated in the new build. There are suitable laundry facilities in the school with clear timetables on it's use for different ages. There is also a student kitchen where drinks and simple snacks can be prepared at any reasonable time. Minor personal items, and stationary can be purchased at the tuck shop at very reasonable prices. Students also

confirmed that they can get permission to go to the local shops during their free time. Most students were very happy with these arrangements and those for pocket money, but the records do not adequately safeguard the school from allegations of mishandling of monies. There are separate common rooms for younger and older students where many simply like to 'chill'. As described by one boarder, 'there is an enormous library' within the school which students were observed using during study time. The majority of the boarders confirmed satisfaction with the facilities for private study. Many of the students complained, however, that there are no desks and chairs in the secular studies classrooms and say that they can be sat, very uncomfortably, for several hours on the floor. It was understood during the registration process that these would be provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

In January 2007, two Deputies were appointed with specific responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of boarders. They recognise the huge task ahead but are committed to making significant improvements. Both have been through the system and consequently 'know exactly where the students are coming from-we can empathise with them'. The inspectors acknowledge the positive changes already made in a relatively short period of time. Trustees regularly make unannounced visits to the school at different times of the day and night to talk to boarders and to check on their welfare. Two were observed to have an excellent rapport with the boys who feel comfortable enough to approach them about any concerns. There is good evidence that they do listen and efficiently respond. There is inconsistent monitoring of records, however, and no evidence that the Board of Trustees are kept suitably informed of all incidents of bullying, allegation, suspensions and expulsions which is not ensuring boarders are kept safe. Staff supervision is still not taking place, but the inspectors were told that there will be an appraisal this year. The staff handbook does not include all the particulars as specified in Standard 35, to ensure all staff are fully conversant with the school's policies and procedures.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
6	ensure all boarders are registered with a local doctor.	6 August 2007
7	ensure accident, first aid and medication records are in sufficient detail.	25 June 2007
6	ensure the school's health policy includes all the areas as specified in Standard 6.	20 September 2007
7	ensure individual records are maintained for all boarders which contain all relevant health and welfare information	20 September 2007
24	ensure boarders are given a good menu choice.	2 July 2007

25	ensure boarders have drinking water with all their meals and at other reasonable times.	21 June 2007
17	ensure an individual welfare plan is in place for any boarder with special welfare needs, which is agreed by his parent(s)	20 August 2007
3	ensure the school's child protection policy is consistent with Bolton Council's new procedures	20 September 2007
4	ensure all sanctions are recorded and include the details as specified in standard 4.6.	21 June 2007
4	ensure all restraints are satisfactorily recorded.	21 June 2007
5	ensure all complaints are recorded, including any investigation made and the actions and outcomes.	21 June 2007
26	ensure that during a fire drill a responsible person checks that all borders have evacuated before leaving.	20 September 2007
14	ensure all boarders understand the role of the independent listener and how to contact him directly	21 July 2007
19	ensure all communication with parents is recorded and held on individual boarder's files.	21 June 2007
20	ensure pocket money and tuck shop records are satisfactorily maintained.	21 June 2007
42	ensure bunk beds are only exceptionally used for boarders beyond year 8.	21 September 2007
42	ensure dormitories are not overcrowded.	21 September 2007
42	ensure there is adequate storage space in or adjacent to sleeping areas for boarders clothing and personal property.	21 September 2007
43	ensure there are suitable facilities for study.	21 October 2007
45	ensure students have satisfactory changing facilities for use during the school day.	21 October 2007
35	ensure the staff handbook includes all the areas identified in standard 35.	21 August 2007
34	ensure staff receive regular supervision and an annual appraisal system is in place and satisfactory records are maintained.	21 August 2007
33	ensure the school records are specified in standard 23 are regularly monitored.	21 June 2007

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

Annex

Annex A

National Minimum Standards for boarding school

Being healthy

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders' health is promoted (NMS 6)
- safeguarding and promoting boarders' health and welfare are supported by appropriate records (NMS 7)
- boarders' receive first aid and health care as necessary (NMS 15)
- boarders are adequately supervised and looked after when ill (NMS 16)
- boarders are supported in relation to any health or personal problems (NMS 17)
- boarders receive good quality catering provision (NMS 24)
- boarders have access to food and drinking water in addition to main meals (NMS 25)
- boarders are suitably accommodated when ill (NMS 48)
- boarders' clothing and bedding are adequately laundered (NMS 49).

Ofsted considers 6 and 15 the key standards to be inspected.

Staying safe

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders are protected from bullying (NMS 2)
- boarders are protected from abuse (NMS 3)
- use of discipline with boarders is fair and appropriate (NMS 4)
- boarders' complaints are responded to appropriately (NMS 5)
- the operation of any prefect system safeguards and promotes boarders' welfare (NMS 13)
- boarders' welfare is protected in any appointment of educational guardians by the school (NMS 22)
- boarders are protected from the risk of fire (NMS 26)
- the welfare of any children other than the school's pupils is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated by the school (NMS 28)
- boarders' safety and welfare are protected during high risk activities (NMS 29)
- boarders' personal privacy is respected (NMS 37)
- there is vigorous selection and vetting of all staff and volunteers working with boarders (NMS 38)
- boarders are protected from unsupervised contact at school with adults who have not been subject to the school's complete recruitment checking procedures; all unchecked visitors to the boarding premises are supervised (NMS 39)
- boarders have their own accommodation, which is secure from public intrusion (NMS 41)
- boarders are protected from safety hazards (NMS 47)

Ofsted considers 2, 3, 4, 5, 26, 37, 38, 39, 41 and 47 the key standards to be inspected.

Enjoying and achieving

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders have access to a range and choice of activities (NMS 11)
- boarders do not experience inappropriate discrimination (NMS 18)
- boarders' welfare is not compromised by unusual or onerous demands (NMS 27)
- boarders have satisfactory provision to study (NMS 43)
- boarders have access to a range of safe recreational areas (NMS 46)

Ofsted considers 14 and 18 the key standards to be inspected.

Annex A

Making a positive contribution

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders are enabled to contribute to the operation of boarding in the school (NMS 12)
- boarders receive personal support from staff (NMS 14)
- boarders can maintain private contact with their parents and families (NMS 19)
- new boarders are introduced to the school's procedures and operation, and are enabled to settle in (NMS 21)
- boarders have appropriate access to information and facilities outside the school (NMS 30)
- there are sound relationships between staff and boarders (NMS 36)

Ofsted considers 12 and 19 the key standards to be inspected.

Achieving economic well-being

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- boarders' possessions and money are protected (NMS 20)
- boarders are provided with satisfactory accommodation (NMS 40)
- boarders have satisfactory sleeping accommodation (NMS 42)
- boarders have adequate private toilet and washing facilities (NMS 44)
- boarders have satisfactory provision for changing by day (NMS 45)
- boarders can obtain personal requisites while accommodated at school (NMS 50)

Ofsted considers 51 the key standard to be inspected.

Organisation

The intended outcomes for these standards are:

- a suitable statement of the school's principles and practice should be available to parents, boarders and staff (NMS 1)
- there is clear leadership of boarding in the school (NMS 8)
- crises affecting boarders' welfare are managed effectively (NMS 9)
- the school's organisation of boarding contributes to boarders' welfare (NMS 10)
- risk assessment and school record-keeping contribute to boarders' welfare (NMS 23)
- boarders are supervised adequately by staff (NMS 31)
- staff exercise appropriate supervision of boarders leaving the school site (NMS 32)
- boarders are adequately supervised at night (NMS 33)
- boarders are looked after by staff which have specific boarding duties, and have received adequate induction and continued training (NMS 34)
- boarders are looked after by staff which follow clear boarding policies and practice (NMS 35)
- the welfare of boarders placed in lodgings is safeguarded and promoted (NMS 51)
- the welfare of boarders is safeguarded and promoted while accommodated away from the school site on short-term visits (NMS 52)

Ofsted considers 1, 23, 31 and 34 the key standards to be inspected.