

Beis Trana Girl's School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

DfE registration number	204/6400
Unique Reference Number (URN)	131342
Inspection number	365541
Inspection dates	29 November 2010
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

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 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 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090137

© Crown copyright 2010



Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Beis Trana Girls School is an independent day school now registered for 250 girls aged 3 to 16 years. There are currently 238 girls on roll. It caters solely for girls of the strictly orthodox Jewish community from Hackney and Haringey. Two pupils have statements of special educational needs. The families are from a variety of social and economic backgrounds and most are affiliated to the *Square* Chassidic movement, the headquarters of which are in New York. The main language spoken at home is Yiddish but most pupils are bilingual. There is no access to radio, television or the internet but Jewish newspapers are read. *Kodesh* (religious studies) is mainly taught in the morning in Yiddish and *Chol* (secular studies) taught in the afternoon in English from Year 1. The last standard Ofsted inspection was in December 2007 and two progress monitoring visits have been made since this time. This third progress monitoring visit is to evaluate the progress the school has made.

Context of the inspection

The last full inspection of the school was in December 2007. A number of shortcomings were identified and the resulting action plan for improvement formulated after this inspection was evaluated in November 2008 and found to be satisfactory. The school was registered for 178 girls at the time of the original registration. At the time of the full inspection in December 2007, the school had 205 pupils on roll. The inspection identified space in the classrooms as a concern. By January 2009, a further increase to 235 on roll was noted in its Annual School Census. A progress monitoring visit was made to the school in June 2009 when it was found that no improvements had been made to address the issue of overcrowding. Some improvements had been made but the school was still found to be overcrowded at the time. A further progress monitoring visit in February 2010 was made to see what progress the school had made in addressing the outstanding issue of overcrowding in the school. It was found that the school had extended the premises and took girls up to the age of 16 in Year 11. At present there are no girls in Year 11. Subsequently, the school was registered for 250 pupils to the age of 16. A number of regulations were found to be unmet. The school had made no response to requests for an action plan from the DfE following the February 2010 visit. This present progress monitoring visit was made to establish the current provision at the school and to evaluate progress in meeting the regulations not met at the last visit.

An inspection of the Early Years Foundation Stage was also made at the time of this visit.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The overall effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage is satisfactory. Children settle happily and staff have a very caring approach. Parents are actively encouraged to be involved in their children's education through the detailed and informative weekly correspondence. The outcomes for the children are good. Abilities on entry are recorded through regular assessments but there is no formal tracking system to measure individual progress. The results at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage are good, taking into account the fact that assessment in reading and writing is in English, which is not pupils' first language nor the language in which they are taught. The provision for the children is satisfactory. Children behave very well, are cooperative, helpful and develop good social skills towards peers and adults. All children respond well to the opportunities provided indoors and outside. At present, there is no designated outdoor learning area for the sole use of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, although the children make good use of the well-equipped playground at various times during the day. Their access to this area is limited as school playtimes for the rest of the school are staggered during the day. All children respond well to the activities that are provided for them in the classroom and are comfortable in making choices of activities, and talk to their peers and adults about what they are doing. They learn to share resources and play with imagination. The leadership and management is satisfactory. The experienced headteacher ensures that teachers' planning and recording is detailed and that staff have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the setting at regular staff meetings. Welfare and safety are carefully considered, and children move around sensibly and take care of their personal hygiene. No member of staff holds the required current paediatric first aid certificate. The leadership is aware of the need to regularly update first aid training and is making this a priority as the certificates have run out.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the last progress monitoring visit of February 2010, a number of regulations were found not to be met. The attendance and admission registers did not meet the regulations; not all staff had an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check; the number of pupils in some classrooms did not allow for effective teaching; and some areas compromised health and safety as the school had failed to ensure that all classrooms were properly maintained and decorated, and that they had floor coverings of an appropriate standard. The school was also required to ensure that there were sufficient washbasins for senior pupils, taking account of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999.

The admission register now meets the regulations and is completed satisfactorily. The attendance registers are also kept according to the regulations and the correct codes are used accurately. The school has checked all staff for their suitability to work with children. There had been some delays in obtaining CRB disclosures but these are all now up-to-date and include all staff working on the premises and the named proprietor. This information is kept accurately on the required single central register of staff appointments.

The school is just completing a new classroom conversion on the second floor of the senior girls building, which will give more teaching space. However, this area is not yet in use and as a result, some classrooms are too crowded for effective teaching. The fire officer has not yet visited the new classroom accommodation to check its suitability nor has the school updated the fire risk assessment to include this area. The school has ordered new floor coverings for the whole of the senior girls building but it has not yet been installed. Some final wall covering and decoration has not yet been completed. A new washbasin has been installed but it is not yet connected to the mains water supply. The school has not given parents a copy of their safeguarding policy as required.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010¹ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that the new classrooms comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13))
- ensure that the number of pupils in each classroom is suitable to allow effective teaching (paragraph 23(i))
- ensure that there are sufficient plumbed-in washbasins for senior pupils which take account of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 23(j))
- ensure that all classrooms are suitably maintained and decorated (paragraph 23(p))
- provide suitable floor coverings for all areas of the senior girls building. (paragraph 23(r))

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

- send to parents of pupils (and of prospective pupils on request) a copy of the safeguarding children policy as required under part 3, paragraph 7 (paragraph 24(1)(c)).

In order to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school must:

- ensure that at least one person has a current paediatric first aid certificate and must be on the premises at all times when children are present. There must be at least one person on outings who has a current paediatric first aid certificate².

Suggested points for improvement in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- continue to develop the system of assessment to more accurately measure individual progress over time and from their starting points
- provide a designated outdoor learning area for the sole use of the children in the Early Year Foundation Stage.

² www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs/resources/downloads/statutory-framework-update.pdf

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Jewish Day School
Date school opened	1995
Age range of pupils	3–16
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	238
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	2
Annual fees (day pupils)	No fees charged
Address of school	186 Upper Clapton Road London E5 9DH
Telephone number	020 8815 8001/2/3
Email address	btschool@btconnect.co.uk
Headteacher	Mrs Weiss/Mrs Hirsch/Mrs Hager/Mrs Smaya
Proprietor	Mr Konig