

Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

DfE registration number	350/6017
Unique Reference Number (URN)	130285
URN for social care	SC 009423
Inspection number	364062
Inspection dates	11 January 2011
Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail
Social care inspector	Lynne O'Driscoll

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 2011



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, and under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

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

Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah is an independent Muslim boarding school in the Deane area of Bolton, registered for boys aged 11–21 years. There are 302 students on roll aged 11–23 years; 89 students are above compulsory school age and 145 are boarders. There are no students with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The school has identified some students who use English as an additional language. Established in 1992 as a registered charity, the school provides secondary and further education as well as advanced Islamic education. It aims to prepare its students to become imams and religious teachers. The school states that:

‘it is the aim of the institute to make available the various resources and expertise to nurture the humanity to attain the true sense of peace, as was intended by the Almighty.’

Context of the inspection

The school was inspected jointly by education and care inspectors in January 2010, when it failed to meet some of the regulations for the registration of independent schools. The failures were mainly related to students’ welfare, health and safety. The school also failed to have regard to a number of national minimum standards for boarding schools. The school was asked to submit a post-inspection action plan; the evaluation of this plan in April 2010 showed that the school was still not meeting most of the regulations. This is the first monitoring inspection, conducted by care and education inspectors, to check on the school’s progress in implementing its post-inspection action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the last inspection the school failed to meet 21 of the regulations for the registration of independent schools. Since September 2010, the school has used its action plan effectively to overcome these failures.

The inspection in January 2010 found that the scheme of work for humanities subjects was inadequate, and that provision for physical education was restricted to only one session a week. In addition, very limited careers advice was offered to students. Provision for humanities has improved significantly. Schemes of work for history, geography, religious education, citizenship and physical education (PE) are now satisfactory. The schemes are effectively implemented through long-term, medium-term and short-term planning. More time is allocated for humanities and PE. The school provides effective work-related education and regular sessions for careers advice from Year 9. Representatives from Connexions, local colleges and other institutions talk to students about available courses. Students in Years 10 and 11 go to different mosques for work placements to lead prayers and present speeches. Some students help with teaching in mosques. In addition, the school is in contact with local business, hospitals and other civic organisations to provide work placements for its students.

The inspection in January 2010 found that staff were not given basic training in safeguarding and there were omissions in the child protection policy. Risk assessments for outside visits were not completed consistently and the school's fire risk assessment was not available for scrutiny; fire extinguishers had not been tested with sufficient regularity. The school failed to provide evidence that the kitchens had been approved by the local environmental health authorities, and that the required certificates of food hygiene had been obtained. Policies and procedures to promote the safeguarding of students now meet the regulations; all staff and two designated child protection officers are trained at the required levels. Risk assessments and procedures to promote students' health and safety, including premises and fire safety, and off-site visits, meet the regulations. All requirements in relation to food hygiene are now met.

At the time of the previous inspection records of sanctions were not available and the school's admissions and attendance registers did not meet requirements. The school now records all sanctions applied to students. It maintains an admission register and attendance registers as required.

The inspection in January 2010 found that appropriate independent written references were not available for all staff appointed. All of the required checks on the suitability of proprietors and staff are now made and recorded in a single central register.

The inspection in January 2010 found that the required information about students' academic performance and the number of complaints in the preceding year was not made available to parents. There were omissions in the procedures for the management of complaints. In addition, the school had not prepared a 3-year plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, as amended. The school has revised its prospectus and complaints policy and these now meet all regulatory requirements. The school now meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 through an appropriate three-year action plan.

The school has made good progress and now meets all the regulations for the registration of independent schools.

At the last inspection 23 recommendations were made for the school to meet the national minimum standards for boarding; 20 of these have been carried out satisfactorily. Accurate medication records are now kept. Menus continue to be revised in line with boarders' preferences; in particular, there is more variety at breakfast. There are more opportunities for boarders to take part regularly in sports and physical exercise. There are improved and better equipped communal areas where the boarders can relax and socialise after school and read an appropriate range of newspapers and magazines. Opportunities have been increased for boarders to contribute to school life including through regular school council meetings and surveys, the results of which inform future developments. There are more telephones to enable boarders to contact their families. A medical consent form is now included on the application form for new admissions to give the school signed parental permission for medical treatment and the administration of first aid and medication. However, they have not all been returned in a timely manner.

Arrangements have been improved to promote boarders' safety, including more stringent recruitment and selection processes. Risk assessments, internal safety checks and all the required safety certificates are also up to date and help to promote the safe and satisfactory maintenance of the building. Sanction records show a fair and proportionate approach to students' misdemeanours.

New procedures include policies to ensure planned responses to foreseeable major incidents and an efficient response in the event of a student going missing. The complaints procedure is now in line with the regulations and the child protection policy has been ratified by the designated local safeguarding officer to ensure it is consistent with local procedures. The statement of boarding principles and practice now accurately reflects the school's registration in respect of ages and numbers of boarders. The staff handbook still does not include all the details specified in the national minimum standards. The school has recently started to develop a monitoring system. However, the monitoring is not at the frequencies prescribed in the standards and recording does not include the monitoring of accidents or records of shortfalls identified and the actions taken to rectify them.

Overall, the school has made significant improvements in the last twelve months to promote the health, safeguarding and welfare of the boarders. Three recommendations for boarding arise from this inspection.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements for continued registration as an independent school.

To secure full compliance with the national minimum standards for boarding schools the school should ensure that:

- there is signed parental consent for every boarder in respect of medical treatment and the administration of first aid and medication (national minimum standard 15.14)
- the staff handbook includes all the details specified in the national minimum standards (national minimum standard 35.3)
- there is an effective system in place, overseen by a senior member of staff, to monitor all the matters identified in the national minimum standards at least twice a term (national minimum standard 23.2).

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Muslim Boarding School		
Date school opened	1995		
Age range of pupils	11-23		
Gender of pupils	Boys		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 302	Girls: 0	Total:302
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of boarders	Boys: 145	Girls: 0	Total: 145
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£1,400		
Annual fees (boarders)	£2,600		
Address of school	Mount St Joseph's Convent Willows Lane Deane Bolton Lancashire BL3 4HF		
Telephone number	01204 665779		
Fax number	01204 62622		
Email address	admin@al-jamiah-al-islamiyyh.org.uk		
Headteacher	Dr S J Haneef		
Proprietor	Al Jamiah Al Islamiyyah Trust		