

# Marathon Science School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland
Social care inspector	Angela Hunt

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## **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**

The school is situated in Surrey Quays, Lewisham; it opened in September 2009. The school's registration allows for 144 pupils and 74 boarders between the ages of 10 and 16 years. There are currently 69 boys on roll and all are in Key Stage 3. The school intends to grow in size towards its capacity by admitting a new Year 7 cohort each year. The school's admission criteria require that all boys are boarders. The usual pattern is that the boys go home on alternate weekends. Most come from London boroughs, although some come from much further afield. The boarding provision is a 20-minute drive from the school site. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs. The proprietors are a body of four trustees comprising the Seven Hills Educational Trust, a registered charitable trust. They established the school in response to the wishes of the Turkish community with the aim of providing a 24-hour curriculum inspired by Islamic values that will lead to high academic standards. Almost all pupils are from a Turkish heritage and all are Muslim. Most of the school staff, including the headteacher, work part time.

The school was first inspected by Ofsted in June 2010. This was an integrated inspection when both the education and boarding inspection took place at the same time.

## **Context of the inspection**

At the inspection in June 2010, the school failed to comply with a number of regulations and national minimum standards. The school drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report, which was deemed to be satisfactory subject to satisfactory implementation. This is the report of a progress monitoring visit by an education inspector and a social care inspector in order to check whether the school has taken appropriate steps to address the weaknesses identified in the last inspection report and to assess the amount of progress made in meeting the regulations as well as the national minimum standards. This is the record of the first visit to the school since the June 2010 inspection.

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At its previous inspection in June 2010, the school did not provide a planned programme for careers guidance. The information supplied by the school indicates that the programme for careers education is now in place. The school has recently appointed a careers guidance coordinator, and planned and implemented lessons to provide students with the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, including work experience. The school has also established a partnership with several businesses, which have held group work discussions to provide support and guidance for all students.

The earlier inspection found the designated person for child protection had not undertaken the required advanced training. This situation has been remedied and the school has ensured that the designated officer has received the advanced child protection training. Other members of staff have attended the basic training and know what to do should a concern arise. Two members of staff are also firmly booked to attend the advanced child protection training on 6 October 2010. Previous weaknesses in the staff recruitment process with regards to references and checks on regular visitors to the school have been rectified and the school now meets all the requirements. The school undertakes all the appropriate checks with the Criminal Records Bureau. All members of staff including regular visitors to the school are fully checked for their suitability to work with children before their appointment is confirmed. There are suitably detailed written references for all staff. The school has compiled a single register with details of all the required staff checks including those for the regular visitors to the school.

The June 2010 inspection found that the food was not served at the correct temperatures. The school has made appropriate arrangements to ensure that the food transported from the boarding house for lunch remains at a suitable temperature.

In relation to the regulations for boarding, the school did not have adequate systems in place to address the health and care of its students at the earlier inspection. The school has now introduced new medication forms, reviewed its practice and now records welfare information for students with long-term illnesses. This has helped to improve the arrangements in place to meet the health and care needs of students.

Inconsistencies in practice in recording punishments, complaints, risk assessments and other significant incidents were found at the previous inspection. The school did not undertake regular monitoring of these. This issue has been tackled through establishing standard forms for reporting, setting up regular meetings between staff and leadership, introducing the role of a behaviour mentor and by providing clear guidelines to staff. This has allowed the headteacher to maintain an overview of practice and to make sure that appropriate action is taken where necessary. The improvement to the monitoring systems has resulted in greater consistency in practice to support students' well-being.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements and national minimum standards for boarding schools.

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Secondary Boarding		
<b>Date school opened</b>	7 September 2009		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	10–16		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Male		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 69	Girls: 0	Total: 69
<b>Number of boarders</b>	Boys: 69	Girls: 0	Total: 69
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	£8,500		
<b>Address of school</b>	Marathon House, 1–9 Evelyn Street, Surrey Quays, Lewisham, London, SE8 5RQ		
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7231 3232		
<b>Email address</b>	info@marathonschool.com		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Uzeyir Onur		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Seven Hills Educational Trust		