

Meadowbrook Montessori School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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

T: 0300 123 1231
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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.^{1,2}

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

Meadowbrook Montessori School was founded in 1990 by the present proprietor. The primary section of the school is located in a modern building with large grounds close to the village of Warfield, near Bracknell in Berkshire. The pre-primary department, for nursery and reception children, is in a Victorian school building with its own substantial grounds. There are 120 boys and girls aged between 3 and 11 on roll, 49 of whom attend on a part-time basis. There are a further 11 children attending sessions in the registered childcare provision for 0–3 year olds.

The aims of the school include providing pupils with a thirst for knowledge, a love of work and an ability to set high expectations for personal learning and achievement.

Context of the inspection

When the school was last inspected by Ofsted in June 2008, all but two of the regulations were met. The school was asked to prepare and submit an action plan to the Department to address these issues; this has not been done. The purpose of this monitoring visit, the first since the school was last inspected, is to check the progress made by the school in addressing the outstanding regulations.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in 2008 found that there was insufficient access for emergency vehicles at the primary site, with no clear means of entry for such vehicles from the school car park to the school building. Little has changed since then and there remains no vehicular access. The school is unable to produce written evidence from the emergency services to confirm its compliance with this requirement. This regulation is still not met.

The inspection in 2008 also found that the adventure play apparatus at both of the school's sites required urgent maintenance. Since then, the school has arranged for

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

an annual inspection of the equipment to be carried out by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) . The latest RoSPA inspection report, dated 31 August 2010, identifies shortcomings as high, medium or low risk and provides a recommended timescale for their resolution. While the high level risks have been promptly addressed and annotations on the report indicate that medium-term risks have been acknowledged, there is no written action plan in place for systematically monitoring and addressing the medium- and low-level risks identified. As a result, the regulation requiring a safe play space is still not met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010³ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that there is sufficient access so that emergency evacuations can be accomplished safely for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (paragraph 23(g))
- ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for providing outside space for pupils to play safely (paragraph 23(s)).

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Montessori School		
Date school opened	1990		
Age range of pupils	2–11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 44	Girls: 27	Total: 71
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 33	Girls: 16	Total: 49
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 7	Girls: 4	Total: 11
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 2	Girls: 0	Total: 2
Annual fees (day pupils)	£7,155–£8,010		
Annual fees (childcare)	£4,020		
Address of school	Malt Hill Warfield Bracknell Berkshire RG42 6JQ		
Telephone number	01344 890869		
Email address	administrator@meadowbrookmontessori.org		
Headteacher	Mrs Serena Gunn		
Proprietor	Mr Paul Watkins		