

Etz Chaim School at the Belmont

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Chanan Tomlin

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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

Etz Chaim Boys' School was established in 1993 in North Manchester as a strictly orthodox Jewish school. There are currently 98 pupils on roll, aged 11 to 15 years. The school accepts pupils of widely differing abilities, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities. There are currently three students with statements of special educational needs on role. The school's mission is: 'to provide religious, personal and academic education, in order to prepare pupils for a full religious life in accordance with the religious outlook of the community at large.' To achieve these aims: 'emphasis is mainly on cultivating enthusiasm and love for Jewish studies, practice and ethos, which prepares pupils adequately for their next institution, whilst concurrently providing a basic secular education to GCSE level, an understanding of the natural world and the world around them, and some skills which will be of economic use to them in their future.'

Context of the inspection

The school was inspected in June 2007. A number of regulations were not met. After its first progress monitoring visit in March 2009 the school produced an action plan to address the remaining weaknesses. The action plan was evaluated in November 2009 and was found to be satisfactory except that there was concern over making checks on members of staff from overseas and in remedying hazardous flooring. The school submitted a second action plan in August 2010 that was evaluated in the same month. This action plan was found to be unsatisfactory, again with respect to making and recording checks on staff. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate the progress of the school in implementing its action plan of August 2010.

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

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The evaluation of the school's August 2010 action plan found that the school did not provide evidence that it had carried out appropriate checks for all members of staff, not all staff had criminal records clearance and appropriate checks were not carried out for a member of staff from overseas. The single central record was also deemed not to be in order.

This progress monitoring visit found that the school now has appropriate recruitment procedures and carries out all of the required checks for prospective members of staff. It has carried out all of the necessary checks for current members of staff and these details are recorded in a single central register. The single central register includes all of the required details and also additional details whose inclusion is deemed 'good practice'. All members of staff have criminal record clearance and the relevant checks have been made on staff from overseas.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Secondary boys' school
Date school opened	July 1993
Age range of pupils	11-15 years
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	98
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	0
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	3
Number of pupils who are looked after	0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£5,800
Address of school	The Belmont 89 Middleton Road Manchester Lancashire M8 4JY
Telephone number	0161 740 0300
Email address	manager@ec-school.org.uk
Headteacher	Rabbi E Cohen
Proprietor	Mr N M Halpern