

# Finchley and Acton Yochien School

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	302/6107
Unique reference number	131128
URN for registered childcare and social care	EY240936 / EY303773 / EY304230
	EY303993 / EY307135
Inspection number	346560
Inspection dates	21 July 2010
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

**Age group:** 2–6

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## **Purpose and scope of the visit**

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002<sup>1</sup>, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005<sup>2</sup>.

The visit 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 Finchley and Acton Yochien School opened in north London in 1993. The school operates on two sites, in Finchley and in Acton. It provides an Early Years Foundation Stage education for two to five year olds. Education continues for children up to six years old, based on a blend of the Japanese national curriculum and the English Foundation Stage curriculum. There are currently 164 children on roll, all of whom attend full time. This includes childcare provision which is made for 29 children aged three and younger. The school aims to help children learn the skills and knowledge they require to be successful and to grow into happy, healthy, well-behaved, kind and considerate young people. The school prepares children for their futures in Japanese schools in England, Japan and around the world.

Japanese is the main language and children learn English as an additional language. Virtually all staff are Japanese. There is considerable movement of children in and out of the school throughout the year when families relocate. The school was last inspected in September 2008.

## **Context of the visit**

Following the last inspection, the school drew up an action plan to address those regulations that were judged not to be met. This was evaluated in January 2009 and found to be unsatisfactory on a number of counts. A progress monitoring visit was made to the school in January 2010 to check the school's progress in implementing its action plan. This found a number of requirements still outstanding and the school submitted a revised action plan which was accepted in April 2009. This is the second monitoring visit to check the school's progress in implementing its revised action plan.

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

While some progress has been made in implementing the most recent action plan, the school has failed to make adequate progress in meeting shortcomings in a

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga\\_20020032\\_en\\_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162)

<sup>2</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga\\_20050018\\_en\\_15#sch8](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8)

number of important areas and must take urgent steps to meet the outstanding regulations.

When inspected in October 2008, the school did not maintain satisfactory records of current fire safety risk assessments. The school acted promptly by undertaking professional fire safety surveys at both sites. These identified a number of deficiencies in provision. Progress in addressing the significant number of deficiencies, notably at the Finchley site, has been too slow and a number of hazards remain. Furthermore, there is now additional action required to meet the regulations, resulting from recent building work. The school's approach to making and recording checks on fire safety equipment and emergency routines lacks sufficient rigour.

The requirements noted in January 2010 regarding the provision of hot water at the hand basins in the pupils' and adults' toilets remain unmet at both sites. Although quotations have been received, the work has yet to be carried out. The facilities for pupils who are ill now meet requirements at the Acton site but not at Finchley. Plans to remedy the situation have been drawn up, with work proposed for completion during the forthcoming school holiday.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

As a result of this inspection visit, the school must take action to meet the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003<sup>3</sup> as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that the school maintains records of current fire safety risk assessments at both sites and remedies the outstanding deficiencies in fire safety matters (paragraph 3(5))
- ensure a suitable supply of hot water for the sinks in the staff and children's toilets at both sites (paragraph 5(a))
- provide appropriate facilities for children who are ill at both sites (paragraph 5(l)).

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<sup>3</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm)

## School details

<b>Name of school</b>	Finchley and Acton Yochien		
<b>DCSF number</b>	302/6107		
<b>Unique reference number</b>	131128		
<b>EY URN (for registered childcare only)</b>	EY240936 / EY303773 / EY304230 / EY303993 / EY307135		
<b>Type of school</b>	Kindergarten		
<b>Status</b>	Independent		
<b>Date school opened</b>	20 April 1993		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	2–6 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 72	Girls: 63	Total: 135
<b>Number on roll (part-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Number of pupils aged 0-3 in registered childcare provision</b>	Boys: 15	Girls: 14	Total: 29
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£4,005–£5,820		
<b>Annual fees (childcare)</b>	£4,005–£5,820		
<b>Address of school</b>	6 Hendon Avenue Finchley London N3 1UE		
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8343 2191		
<b>Fax number</b>	020 8343 1747		
<b>Email address</b>	phil.lang@golderhillschool.co.uk		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Ms J Tanabe (Acting Headteacher)		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr K Maeda		
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Michael Best		
<b>Dates of inspection</b>	21 July 2010		