

# Birmingham Muslim School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michèle Messaoudi

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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.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

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

Birmingham Muslim School is an independent day school that provides full-time education for boys and girls aged 4 to 11 years from families within the Muslim community in the Small Heath area of Birmingham. The school aims to provide its pupils with an excellent standard of education, and to strive for moral excellence through the teaching of Islam. The school was established in 2001 in a former industrial unit. It is registered for 250 pupils and there are currently 106 full-time pupils on roll, taught in six classes across the school. There are 19 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, none of whom receives free entitlement to nursery education. There are no pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. A significant proportion of pupils, particularly in the Early Years Foundation Stage, are at early stages of speaking English.

## Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected in June 2010 when it was found to have significant shortcomings resulting in the effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety being judged inadequate. Its action plan and the proposed timescales to meet all the requirements were evaluated in October 2010 and judged to be inadequate. This is the first visit to the school to follow up its progress in implementing its action plan.

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

The last inspection found that the school did not have full regard to the current guidance on health and safety. Consequently, a number of significant safety issues were identified around the school, some of which placed children at potential risk of harm. The school planned to remedy each of the hazards. As a result of implementing the plan, the school has rectified all the shortcomings highlighted in the last inspection report. Weekly risk assessments of the premises now enable the early identification of potential risks. The requirement is now met.

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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)

<sup>3</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga\\_20000014\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000014_en_1)

In the last inspection, the school did not have suitable washroom facilities for staff and appropriate arrangements for pupils who are ill. The school planned to provide the missing facilities. The school has implemented its action plan satisfactorily in this respect. Separate washroom facilities for staff have been made available on the ground floor of adjacent premises and they meet requirements. A small room has been designated as a sick room. It is located near pupils' toilets and contains a sink and soft seating for the use of pupils who are ill. The requirements are now met.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the last inspection found a number of inadequacies. The curriculum did not provide a balance of adult-led and freely chosen activities planned through indoor and outdoor play. The activities that were provided were not personalised sufficiently in relation to individual children's abilities and their prior attainment. The school planned to review its assessment and planning procedures and to make more effective use of resources for indoor and outdoor learning. A good balance of indoor and outdoor activities, chosen by the children or led by the staff, was observed during this visit. The staff and children were seen to use the limited existing resources satisfactorily to support indoor and outdoor learning. The staff gain an increasing understanding of individual children's needs through improved assessment. Most of the observations of children's learning are made during activities chosen by the children. However, staff do not routinely use the information from observations to plan individual children's learning steps. In particular, they do not always use appropriate strategies to manage the behaviour of a few children who find it difficult to concentrate for a sustained period. The planning is still not satisfactory because it is too brief to support the teaching effectively and to ensure that the needs of individual children will be met. There are no long-term plans showing how the children will be helped to progress towards the expected goals from term to term. There are no medium-term plans showing how central themes, such as the current 'Jack and the Beanstalk' theme, will be exploited to provide learning opportunities in each of the six areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The weekly plans outline which areas of learning will be covered, which activities will be directed by staff and which learning opportunities will be offered to children through free play. However, they do not indicate that reading skills will be taught daily, which activities will occur indoors or outdoors and which children should be observed in more depth as a result of previous assessment. Furthermore, there is no evaluation of the extent to which the daily activities help individual children achieve their targets. Consequently, children cannot reach their full potential.

The last inspection also found that no-one in the Early Years Foundation Stage had a paediatric first aid certificate, leaving children at risk of not receiving appropriate treatment in an emergency. It also identified safety issues related specifically to the roof and fencing in the outdoor area used by the children. Two members of staff now have received the required level of training. The roof has been secured and new fencing of appropriate height has been erected around the outdoor area used by Reception children.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to comply with the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage as follows:

- consider the needs, interests and stages of development of the children and use all of this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience across all the areas of learning and development
- use daily observations and assessments to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating experiences for each child to ensure that individual children can progress as much as they are capable towards the expected goals.

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Muslim primary school		
<b>Date school opened</b>	2001		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–11 years		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 57	Girls: 49	Total: 106
<b>Number on roll (part-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Number of pupils who are looked after</b>	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£1,780		
<b>Address of school</b>	Bisley Works Golden Hillock Road Birmingham B11 2PZ		
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 766 8129		
<b>Email address</b>	info@muslimschool.org.uk		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Aisha Abdrabba		
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr Ghoma Abdrabba		