

Finchley and Acton Yochien School

Independent school progress report

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

Published: September 2010

Reference no: 090137

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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 2002¹, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005².

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

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

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 2003³ 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)).

³ www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm

School details

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