

# Hill House International Junior School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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</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**

Hill House School is a large co-educational independent school for pupils between the ages of four and 13 years. The school's founding family continue to lead and manage the school, which was first founded in Switzerland in 1949 and then in London in 1951. The school is located on five separate sites within the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, with the main school located in Hans Place. The school has an annex in Switzerland which hosts groups of pupils for courses throughout the year. The school's motto is that 'A child's mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.'

## **Context of the inspection**

Following an inspection in June 2009, the school was required to submit an action plan outlining its proposals and timescale for addressing the regulations that were not met. When this action plan was evaluated in October 2009, the proposed actions were judged to be broadly satisfactory but the proposed timescale for their implementation was considered unsatisfactory. A progress monitoring visit was made to the school in March 2010 to check its progress in implementing the action plan. This visit found that the school had made sufficient progress in implementing some, but not all, of its action plan. The school did not respond to the Department's request to submit a further action plan. The purpose of this second monitoring visit is to check the progress the school has made in meeting the regulations outstanding at the time of the first visit.

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

The previous inspection found that the child protection policy had not been fully implemented, training for the designated person was incomplete and formal training for the rest of the staff had not been undertaken. While some progress had been made in terms of training and raising the awareness of staff at the time of the first

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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)

monitoring visit, the regulation was still not met. Good progress has been made since that time and the requirements are now met. The school's policy fully reflects the Department for Education's guidance and the latest requirements for reporting to the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Higher-level training has been completed by all the designated persons with responsibility for safeguarding pupils and a senior member of staff involved in appointing staff has undertaken the required additional training.

The previous inspection report found that fire drills were not formally recorded and were too infrequent, especially given the number of pupils and the size and nature of the buildings. At the time of the first monitoring visit, fire safety log books had been provided at each site and senior managers given responsibility for their completion. Although termly fire evacuations were recorded at each site, other records were incomplete. As a result, the relevant regulation was not met. The school has made satisfactory progress and the regulation is now met, although some minor inconsistencies have been drawn to the attention of the proprietors,.

The previous inspection found that attendance registers were not completed correctly. Although the school had provided written guidance for staff on completing registers, the first monitoring visit found that these were not consistently adhered to and a number of important errors were identified. As a result, the regulation was not met. The school has made satisfactory progress in addressing these shortcomings and now meets the requirements.

The previous inspection report noted that the facilities for pupils who are unwell were not suitable for those in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Little School). The first monitoring visit noted that no action had been taken to resolve this shortcoming. The school has now provided a suitable room and addressed this requirement.

The previous inspection found that the school had not prepared a written action plan to fulfil its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. At the time of the first progress monitoring visit, the school had not acted to meet this requirement. While the school has a comprehensive policy in place, it still has not prepared a written three-year action plan and, as a result, this requirement remains unmet.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010<sup>3</sup> ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended (DDA) by devising a three-year accessibility plan.

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent
<b>Type of school</b>	Preparatory
<b>Date school opened</b>	1951
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–13
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 534      Girls: 438      Total: 972
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£9,000–£12,300
<b>Address of school</b>	17 Hans Place London SW1X 0EP
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7584 1331
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:headmaster@hillhouseschool.co.uk">headmaster@hillhouseschool.co.uk</a>
<b>Headteacher</b>	Richard Townend
<b>Proprietor</b>	Richard and Janet Townend