

# Maranatha Christian School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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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**

Maranatha Christian School, near Swindon in Wiltshire, is an independent non-selective co-educational day school for pupils from three to 19 years of age. It was registered in 1999 and offers an education based on 'Biblical foundations and Christian principles'. Currently, there are 69 pupils on roll, five of these are in the Early Years Foundation Stage 'pre-school' and attend part time. No children are in receipt of the government nursery grant. The very large majority of pupils are from White British origins. A few pupils speak English as an additional language. There is one pupil with a statement of special educational needs.

There are five learning centres where pupils work in the morning using Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) resources, which provide an individualised learning programme. In the afternoon, there are practical, group-based activities.

## **Context of the inspection**

When the school was inspected in December 2010, it met most but not all of the regulations. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals to address these, which was evaluated and accepted in February 2011. This is the first monitoring visit to check the progress made by the school in implementing its action plan.

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

When the school was inspected in December 2010, the provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety was inadequate. In particular, the procedures for providing and updating safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers were not rigorous enough. The designated person's training in child protection had expired. The school submitted an action plan to address these shortcomings by ensuring that the appropriate training was provided. The staff training records seen on this visit

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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)

indicate that the designated person attended a recognised higher level training course in January 2011. Staff and volunteers attended basic training in January 2011 and further training was provided by the local authority's child protection team in April 2011. The school now meets regulatory requirements. During this visit, the school's current single central record, summarising the checks made on the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children, was found to meet requirements.

At the time of the inspection in December 2010, parents, carers and others were not informed of the number of complaints in the preceding year or that they could request a copy of the school's safeguarding policy. The school responded promptly to these shortcomings in December 2011 by providing the required information to parents and carers. The school intends to include details about the availability of policies and other information on its updated website as well as in paper-based documentation. The requirements are now met.

When the school was inspected in December 2010, it did not have a current three-year action plan to improve access to the premises, the curriculum and to information. The school submitted an action plan to address this shortcoming. The evaluation of this in February 2011 found that the plan needed some improvement in order to cover a three-year period. On this visit, the school provided a copy of its three-year disability action plan, completed in April 2011. This indicates that an audit of the school's current provision for access to the curriculum, premises and facilities, and information has been undertaken. Proposals over a three-year period are systematically developed with suitable targets, milestones and costings. Appropriate arrangements for monitoring and evaluation are also included. The statutory requirement is now met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

## School details

<b>School status</b>	Independent		
<b>Type of school</b>	Independent Day School		
<b>Date school opened</b>	1990		
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–19		
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed		
<b>Number on roll (full-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 34	Girls: 30	Total: 64
<b>Number on roll (part-time pupils)</b>	Boys: 4	Girls: 1	Total: 5
<b>Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs</b>	Boys: 1	Girls: 0	Total: 1
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£3,150–£3,435		
<b>Address of school</b>	Queenlaines Farm Sevenhampton Highworth Swindon Wiltshire SN6 7SQ		
<b>Telephone number</b>	01793 762075		
<b>Email address</b>	reception@maranathaschool.org		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Paul Medlock		
<b>Proprietor</b>	The New Maranatha Christian School Trust		