

Greek Primary School of London

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.

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

Greek Primary School of London is an independent co-educational school for pupils aged from four to 12 years. It is located in Acton in the London Borough of Ealing. It was opened in 1984 by the Greek Ministry of Education to serve the Greek speaking community in London. Most pupils come from Greece or Cyprus. All are either native Greek speakers or bilingual. There are currently 73 pupils on roll and all attend full time. There are four children in the Early Years Foundation Stage aged between four and five years, and as compulsory school age is from six years in Greece, these children are taught in the Nursery along with pupils aged between five and six years. None of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage receives public funding under the nursery voucher scheme. There are no pupils with statements of special educational needs. The school teaches the Greek National Curriculum and the language of instruction is Greek. The school is subject to informal inspection by the Greek inspectorate. It was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2008.

The school aims to provide a high quality education for its pupils and to minimise the stress and disruption to their education, which might be caused by their frequent mobility.

Context of the inspection

When the school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2008, most but not all of the regulations were met. In September 2008, the school wrote to the Department outlining the action it proposed to take in order to meet the outstanding regulatory requirements. This action plan was not evaluated by Ofsted. A first monitoring visit to the school was carried out in November 2010 to check the progress the school had made in addressing the previously identified regulatory shortcomings. That visit found that some requirements were still not met. The school was asked to submit an action plan and it submitted evidence of its action to rectify shortcomings on 1 March 2011. The school's action was evaluated on 28 March 2011 and found to be inadequate owing to continuing failure to comply with safeguarding requirements fully. This is a second monitoring visit to check the progress the school has made in evaluating its action plan. The visit was combined with a full inspection, whose findings are presented in a separate report.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the time of the first progress monitoring visit in November 2010, the designated person in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the staff had received training to the required standards in September 2009. However, although the named designated person for child protection for the primary department had received the appropriate training in September 2008, she had let her training lapse. Furthermore, the safeguarding policy had significant omissions. The school planned to rectify its shortcomings and submitted evidence of the actions taken that was evaluated in March 2008. It was found that following the designated person's training to the appropriate standards of child protection in March 2011, the training requirements in matters of child protection were now met. However, although the safeguarding policy had been reviewed, it still had significant omissions. As soon as the school was informed of the findings of the evaluation of its action plan, it set out to further improve its safeguarding policy by adding the required amount of detail. This present inspection visit found that the safeguarding policy met all requirements. The school has now rectified all the weaknesses in safeguarding requirements that were highlighted in the March 2008 inspection report and in the November 2010 progress monitoring report.

However, this inspection visit found that not all the safeguarding requirements are met because of an oversight in the recruitment of Greek nationals. For Greek nationals on secondment from the Greek ministry of education, the proprietor ensures that rigorous checks are made in Greece. However, after arrival, the proprietor does not obtain enhanced criminal record bureau (CRB) checks that include checks against the Independent Safeguarding Authority barred list, and this information is not included in the school's single central register. Although this constitutes a breach of the independent school regulations and of the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, it has no detrimental impact on the pupils' safety and well-being.

The progress monitoring visit in November 2010 found that although the school had an appropriate disability discrimination policy, it did not have an accessibility plan that met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended. The school set out to prepare a three-year plan showing how it would make the premises and the curriculum accessible to people with a disability. It submitted the three-year plan in March 2011 and this plan was evaluated as satisfactory in March 2011. This inspection found that, as a result of the implementation of the proposed action, the school now meets this requirement fully.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010¹ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school have full regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State by carrying out all the required United Kingdom checks on Greek nationals (paragraph 7)
- ensure that it can be verified that no member of staff is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (ISA barred list) (paragraph 19(2)(a))
- ensure that for all appointments since 1 September 2003 an enhanced CRB check has been made by the proprietor in respect of any member of staff appointed to a position at the school and that the enhanced CRB certificate which is the subject of the application was obtained before or as soon as was practicable after the person's appointment (paragraph 19(2)(c))
- ensure that for each member of staff appointed on or after 1 May 2007, the single central register shows that the above checks were made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraph 22(3)).

In order to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school must:

- ensure that CRB checks are obtained on Greek nationals, in addition to Greek checks.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Foreign national day primary school		
Date school opened	1984		
Age range of pupils	4–12 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 40	Girls: 33	Total: 73
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	No fees charged		
Address of school	3 Pierrepont Road London W3 9JR		
Telephone number	020 8992 6156		
Email address	mariapapastergiou@yahoo.co.uk		
Headteacher	Maria Papastergiou		
Proprietor	Greek Ministry of Education		