

Beis Trana Girls' 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. 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

Beis Trana is an independent day school for girls aged three to 16 years from Charedi Jewish families. It opened in 1995 and is situated in the Stamford Hill area of London. The school abides by the standards set by the Rabbinat of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, resulting in no access to television, the internet and certain curriculum-related subject matter. The main language spoken at home is Yiddish. Kodesh (religious studies) is mainly taught in the mornings in Yiddish, and Chol (the secular curriculum) is taught in English in the afternoons from Year 1. Only Yiddish is spoken in the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are currently 250 girls on roll. Of these, 43 are in the Early Years Foundation Stage, 37 of whom are in receipt of government funding. Two pupils have statements of special educational needs. The school was last inspected in January 2011 and this is the first monitoring visit based on an evaluation of the school's action plan. The school's main aim is 'to deliver a high class education, which is firmly based on Torah principles and to be educated in accordance with the National Curriculum, ultimately combined within Kodesh studies'.

Context of the inspection

The last inspection was carried out in January 2011, and many of the regulations, particularly those relating to the premises which were highlighted in the previous report, were not met. The subsequent action plan presented by the school was evaluated in May 2011 and was deemed inadequate. This progress monitoring visit was to evaluate the progress made by the school in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The report of January 2011 found that the school did not provide careers education for pupils of secondary school age and that careers education was not included in the curriculum policy and schemes of work. Classroom resources for the secular curriculum were insufficient and teachers relied too heavily on textbooks and worksheets. The school planned to introduce a programme of careers education and to prepare appropriate plans and schemes of work. Classroom resources were to be improved and teachers trained in the use of a wider range of materials.

The school has made satisfactory progress in implementing its action plan. There is now a written policy with satisfactory schemes of work for careers guidance and education. These are being implemented effectively. The school's stock of resources is now adequate to support all subjects taught. In addition, the school's stock is often supplemented for particular lessons or projects by resources made or brought in by staff and pupils.

The inspection of January 2011 found that a number of welfare policies had not been prepared specifically for the school and did not relate sufficiently to its circumstances. Procedures for the recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children were not sufficiently robust because there were gaps in checks relating to agency staff working with pupils with special educational needs and/or disability and insufficient checks were made relating to members of staff who had lived outside the United Kingdom. The school's fire safety procedures were inadequate.

In response, the school planned to make arrangements to carry out any missing checks, to complete an audit of the central record of staff checks and to include the missing information. The fire safety procedures were to be reviewed and redrafted. As a result of implementing the plan, all the required employment checks are now undertaken. The single central register now meets the regulations and includes an account of checks carried out on all staff who come in from an outside agency. The school does not now employ any adults who have lived outside the United Kingdom. A commercial fire safety company has been contracted to ensure that the fire safety regulations are met.

The January 2011 inspection found that there were insufficient washbasins in the school, that some did not have a hot water supply and that the temperature of the hot water which was provided was unregulated. Some classrooms were too small for the number of pupils and some areas of the school were in a poor state of decoration. While all the existing washbasins now have a regulated supply of hot water, there are still not enough for the number of staff and pupils. There remain a number of classrooms which are too small for the number of pupils and some areas of the school which are poorly decorated.

The inspection found that the complaints procedure did not include all the required elements. These have now been included.

The inspection found that, in the Early Years Foundation Stage, insufficient qualified staff were employed and the curriculum was not being planned and implemented to take account of the six areas of learning. The Early Years Foundation Stage was inspected during this visit. Provision has been improved through more effective curriculum planning, staff training and the employment of sufficient adults who are trained and qualified in childcare. The six areas of learning are covered by teachers' planning so that there are now satisfactory outcomes for the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Assessment procedures in the Early Years Foundation Stage were found to be inadequate and teaching was not sufficiently informed by the outcomes of assessment. Assessment procedures have since been improved and are now satisfactory; staff now take sufficient account of the outcomes of assessment in planning their sessions.

The school was required to ensure that the revised whole-school welfare policies were applied rigorously in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff training has been undertaken to ensure that this is the case. There were, formerly, insufficient staff with paediatric first-aid training; this deficiency has been remedied. A lack of hot water in the washbasins in the Early Years Foundation Stage provision has also been remedied.

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.

- Having regard to the number, age and needs (including any special educational needs and/or disability) of pupils, ensure all classrooms are appropriate in size to allow effective teaching, and no areas of the school compromise health or safety (paragraph 23(i)).
- Ensure there are sufficient washrooms for staff and pupils, including facilities for pupils with special educational needs and/or disability, which take account of regulations 3 and 4 of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 3(j)).
- Ensure there is a satisfactory standard and adequate maintenance of decoration (paragraph 23(p)).

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

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Day school for Charedi Jewish girls
Date school opened	1995
Age range of pupils	3–16 years
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	250
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	2
Annual fees (day pupils)	None
Address of school	186 Upper Clapton Road, London; E5 9DH
Telephone number	020 8815 8003/1
Email address	btschool@btconnect.com
Headteacher	Mrs Hirsch, Mrs Weiss, Mrs Smaya, Mrs Hager
Proprietor	Mr Konig