

Lycee Francais Charles de Gaulle (British Section)

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

The Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle provides an education for nearly 3,879 boys and girls aged from 3 to 19 years. The school continues to grow in size. It opened in 1915 and is located in South West London. There are no pupils with a statement of special educational needs. The school serves the French community in London and a smaller number of pupils of other nationalities. The British Section provides for those whose main language is not French to take English examinations. The school is situated on four sites. The main site in South Kensington educates pupils of all ages, from the Early Years Foundation Stage to the sixth form. There are three primary school annexes in Hanwell (André Malraux), Clapham (Wix) and Fulham (École de Fulham), which also have Early Years Foundation Stage provision. On leaving school, the great majority of pupils take up places in French, British and international universities. Most pupils study for the Baccalauréat through a curriculum taught in French.

The school is responsible to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with its educational provision under the control of the French Ministry of Education. Day-to-day supervision of the Lycée is provided by the French Embassy in London. It aims to offer academic and personal fulfilment within a multinational and multilingual community, where pupils are taught respect for others and to value diversity.

The school's last full inspection by Ofsted was in 2009.

Context of the inspection

The school's last full inspection by Ofsted was in April 2009. This was a light touch inspection which focused principally on the quality of education provided by the school, its provision for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the arrangements for safeguarding pupils and the improvements the school had made since its last inspection. There was one issue of non-compliance with the regulations, concerning checks made on staff to ensure their suitability for working with children.

The school received an unannounced emergency inspection in May 2011. This inspection found that there were a number of regulations that the school did not

meet. The school submitted an action plan, which was evaluated in September 2011. This was judged to be satisfactory subject to satisfactory implementation.

This is the report of the first progress monitoring visit undertaken in order to check the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The visit of May 2011 found that the welfare, health and safety of the pupils were not fully secured by suitable policies and procedures. The safeguarding policy and procedures did not meet the current requirements. The school's procedures to prevent bullying had not been correctly implemented as no record had been kept of the incidents. No records had been kept of the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour.

In response, the school planned to review its policies and procedures to ensure that statutory requirements were met. As a result of implementing the plan, all of the school's policies and procedures now have full regard to current guidance. The safeguarding policy is in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures agreed through the local safeguarding board. The policy confirms that the school operates safer recruitment procedures, including criminal record bureau checks on all persons who come in contact with pupils and acknowledges the requirement to report incidents to the Independent Safeguarding Authority immediately. The policy also sets out clearly arrangements for dealing with allegations of abuse by pupils against another pupil and against members of staff including the headteacher and all others with regular contact with pupils, ensuring that evidence will be carefully documented and that any deficiencies noted will be remedied immediately.

Staff have received training at appropriate levels in child protection, including the designated child protection officer and the deputy officer. Staff are aware of the safeguarding procedures and know what to do should a concern arise. The safeguarding policy is accessible on the website and a hard copy is also available to parents, carers and others on request.

The school has reviewed its anti-bullying policy, which is now based on recent guidance and offers strategies to staff on how to counter bullying. The school now keeps records of all incidents of bullying and records the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour. These records are monitored regularly by the senior management of the school to identify potential patterns and trends.

The visit of May 2011 also noted that the school did not provide information about its arrangements for the admission of pupils to parents and carers, prospective parents and others, as required by the regulations. Written records were not kept of all complaints, indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing.

The school now ensures that the admission criteria for admissions are accessible on the school's website. The complaints procedure makes it clear that all complaints will be recorded as required.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	French Government day school
Date school opened	1915
Age range of pupils	3–19 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 2,036 Girls: 1,843 Total: 3,879
Annual fees (day pupils)	£3,855 to £8,829 per annum
Address of school	35 Cromwell Road London SW7 8DG
Telephone number	0207 584 6322
Email address	kzane@lyceefrancais.org.uk.
Headteacher	Monsieur B Vasseur
Proprietor	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs