

Flexible Learning Centre

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

DfE registration number	330/6128
Unique Reference Number (URN)	135561
Inspection number	386996
Inspection dates	25 November 2011
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090137

© Crown copyright 2011



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.^{1,2}

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

Flexible Learning Centre is an independent day school that is located on three sites in different parts of Birmingham. The headteacher is the proprietor and owner of the school. The school, which opened in September 2008, provides an alternative education for students aged from 14 to 16 years. Its main aim is to help students to overcome any disadvantages and disaffection in order to achieve their full potential. Sixty-three students are currently enrolled. The number of full-time students has risen since the start of this school year. About three-quarters of students attend full time and the rest on a part-time basis. A number of students are dual registered; they attend the centre and are also on the roll of local secondary schools. Nearly all of the students have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties that have resulted in them not doing as well as they could at school. One has a statement of special educational needs and two are looked after by the local authority. The students come from a wide range of different cultures and beliefs.

Context of the inspection

The school was previously inspected by Ofsted in March 2010 when it met most, but not all, of the regulatory requirements for independent schools. The school submitted an action plan to the Department for Education to address the shortcomings identified in the report; this was judged to be inadequate in June 2010. The school revised its action plan in July 2010 but did not re-submit it to the Department. The first monitoring visit to check the progress made by the school in implementing its action plan took place in October 2010 when some, but not all, of the outstanding regulations were met. The school did not submit an action plan to the Department following the visit. A second monitoring visit was made in March 2011 to check the progress made by the school in meeting all of the regulations; it found that all but one of the regulations were met. This third monitoring visit was made at the request of the Department to check the school's progress in meeting the outstanding regulation.

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in March 2010 found that the Erdington and Hockley sites did not have adequate outdoor space for play and recreation. The first progress monitoring visit in October 2010 found that this was still the case. Following the visit, the school drew up a revised action plan which involved improving outdoor facilities at the Erdington site and, on the Hockley site, organising the temporary use of external space pending the acquisition of alternative premises with sufficient and secure outside space. The second progress monitoring visit in March 2011 found that the school had successfully implemented its proposed action at the Erdington site but that the regulation remained unmet because there remained no suitable outdoor facilities for students at the Hockley site.

This present progress monitoring visit found that the provision at the Hockley site has not changed and therefore the regulation is still not met. The school has not been able to provide students with a suitable outdoor space for recreation. The proprietor has, since the second progress monitoring visit, acquired alternative premises in the Hockley area and has recently obtained planning permission for these to be used as a school. These are in the process of being decorated and equipped prior to application being made to the Department for a material change to the school's registration. Overall, the school has made insufficient progress in meeting all of the regulations because of the continuing lack of suitable outdoor provision for students.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010³ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- provide adequate outside space at the Western Road (Hockley) site for students' recreation and play (paragraph 23(s)).

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Secondary school
Date school opened	September 2008
Age range of pupils	14–16 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 32 Girls: 14 Total: 46
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 13 Girls: 4 Total: 17
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 1 Girls: 0 Total: 1
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 2 Girls: 0 Total: 2
Fees (day pupils)	£9.50 per hour for full-time students (25 hours per week) £10.00 per hour for part-time students (less than 25 hours per week)
Address of school	204 Slade Road Erdington Birmingham B23 7RJ
Telephone number	0121 240 3718
Email address	shamim@flexiblelearning.org.uk
Headteacher	Shamim Akhtar
Proprietor	Shamim Akhtar