

Talmud Torah Chaim Meirim Wiznitz School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Chanan Tomlin

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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

Talmud Torah Chaim Meirim School is situated in the predominantly Jewish area of Stamford Hill, North London. It was established in 1979. Since then it has grown from six pupils to the current roll of 176. Pupils in the main school are aged between five and 12 years and there is a nursery that caters for children from the age of two years that is registered separately. All pupils are boys. The school is owned by the CMA Trust and serves the strictly observant (*haredi*) Jewish community. The school charges no fees and relies on voluntary contributions. The majority of pupils have English as an additional language. The school has two pupils with statements of special educational needs. The curriculum is divided into two distinctive strands, Jewish Studies (*Kodesh*), and Secular Studies (*Chol*).

Context of the inspection

A light touch inspection of this school took place on 20 January 2011. The school was judged to be non-compliant in eight regulations related to education and two related to the welfare, health and safety of the pupils. The school submitted an action plan in June 2011 and this was evaluated in July 2011. The responses in the plan were generally unsatisfactory. The purpose of this visit was to monitor the school's progress in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

In the inspection report of January 2011 it was noted that the quality of the *Chol* curriculum was inadequate because subjects were missing or not covered in sufficient depth. Pupils made inadequate progress as a result of this. Most pupils received no teaching in science or technology. Some, but not all, classes studied geography. The school had no formal provision for physical education and although pupils had some opportunities to develop their creative and aesthetic skills in *Kodesh*, these were not formally planned.

During this inspection it was found that the school now has an appropriate curriculum in each subject including opportunities for supporting creative and aesthetic skills. This includes clear policies and schemes of work.

In the January 2011 inspection, teaching and assessment in *Chol* were judged to be inadequate. Pupils were not encouraged to work collaboratively and the more able

were not given sufficiently challenging activities. The pace of lessons was slow. Assessment was inadequate and teachers did not always prepare their lessons adequately as a result. Pupils were sometimes given work better suited to a younger age group.

During this inspection three lessons were observed. Two lessons were judged as satisfactory and one was good. The good lesson involved pupils working on mathematics exercises in pairs and at their own appropriate levels. More able pupils were challenged according to their abilities and less able pupils were supported by their teacher and peers and made good progress. The pace of learning in the lessons observed was satisfactory. Pupils were appropriately engaged with their tasks in all lessons and behaviour was consistently good. Lessons were planned satisfactorily.

Resources are now satisfactory. New materials are well matched to pupils' abilities. Assessment procedures are now satisfactory. There is regular testing and appropriate records are kept. Pupils' progress is monitored carefully and results shared with them.

In the January 2011 inspection, pupils with special educational needs were given additional support at a nearby specialist centre. However, this did not cover all of the elements specified in their statements, and pupils' progress was inadequate. The school appointed a special educational needs coordinator in November 2011 who became ill shortly afterwards and could not, properly, take up the post. Consequently, the provision has not been revised and pupils' needs are still not being met.

At the time of the January 2011 inspection, the school had a child protection policy which met requirements. However, most staff had not received training and some were not familiar with the policy. The two child protection officers had not received appropriate training. The school now has two officers who received the required training in November 2011. All staff attended training in August 2011.

In January 2011, the school provided roller towels in the pupils' washrooms. Inspectors were concerned that they would spread infection. The school has now installed hot-air hand dryers. A cupboard for electrical and cleaning equipment was left open and accessed by pupils during the January inspection. All storage facilities are now kept locked and are inaccessible to pupils.

The school has made satisfactory progress overall in implementing its action plan and now meets most regulations. However, it still has to address the weaknesses in its provision for pupils with statements of special educational needs and ensure that school policy in this respect is implemented 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 the subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those pupils with a statement of special educational needs (Paragraph 2(2)(b))
- ensure that where pupils have a statement of special educational needs, the education provided fulfils its requirements (Paragraph 2(2)(e)).

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Jewish Day School		
Date school opened	1979		
Age range of pupils	5–12 years		
Gender of pupils	Boys		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 176	Girls: 0	Total: 176
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 2	Girls: 0	Total: 2
Address of school	26 Lampard Grove, London N16 6XB		
Telephone number	0208 806 0898		
Email address	None		
Headteacher	Rabbi S Hoffman		
Proprietor	CMA Trust		