

Al-Muntada Islamic 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

Al-Muntada Islamic School is an independent day school for boys and girls of Islamic faith, aged from four to 16 years. It was founded in 1989 by the Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust which shares its headquarters in Parsons Green with the primary and Early Years Foundation Stage department of the school.

The department for pupils of secondary age is for girls only. It opened in 2003 and is now housed in former office accommodation in Ravensbourne Park. The two departments function as entirely separate schools and do not work to the same policies or procedures.

There are currently 240 pupils: 89 are of secondary age and 151 pupils are of primary and reception age. There are 17 children in the Reception class. The school is registered for 211 pupils, of whom 40 should be of secondary age. Eighty-four pupils are boys and 156 are girls. The pupils are of diverse ethnic heritages. Most are bilingual or at an advanced stage of learning English. No pupils have a statement of special educational needs and no children in the Early Years Foundation Stage receive government funding. The overall aim for both departments is 'to provide an outstanding academic and Islamic education, aiming to create an encouraging atmosphere for Muslim children to realise their full potential'.

Context of the inspection

The school's inspection in February 2011 identified a number of regulations which were not met. The school drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report, which was evaluated in May 2011 and judged to be satisfactory and needed improvement. The school submitted a revised action plan which, although needing improvement, was accepted as satisfactory in October 2011.

This is the report of the first progress monitoring visit in order to check whether the school has taken appropriate steps to address the regulations that were not met at the last inspection.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection of February 2011 reported that information and communication technology (ICT) was underemphasised in primary education. ICT was not sufficiently used by pupils as a resource across the range of subjects. In addition, the school did not make appropriate provision for careers guidance for secondary pupils.

In respect of ICT, discussion with the head of the primary age group and scrutiny of the schools' medium-term and daily plans indicate that teachers now plan the use of ICT across the range of subjects including Arabic, English, history and science. An increased emphasis on pupils' use of computers for research and presenting their work, together with the installation of projectors in classrooms and a multimedia interactive board in the ICT suite, has increased the range and quality of learning. The management of the school monitors the planning and the implementation of ICT regularly.

In relation to careers guidance, the school has recently appointed a careers guidance coordinator and has planned and introduced lessons to provide pupils with the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, including work experience in a variety of settings. The school has also established a partnership with businesses to share their knowledge and skills with pupils, talk to them about the world of work and provide opportunities for work experience. Pupils now receive appropriate careers guidance.

The previous inspection found that there were adequate toilet facilities for the primary and reception children but insufficient facilities for the number of girls of secondary age. In addition, while the playground for primary and reception pupils was adequate, arrangements for secondary pupils were inadequate. The secondary location had no playground and arrangements to take the pupils to the nearby park were insufficiently frequent.

The school has now ensured that the current provision of toilets and washbasins is suitable for staff and the number of pupils, including disabled pupils. However, in respect of playground facilities, secondary pupils still do not have regular access to outdoor play. The school has failed to increase the frequency with which groups make a visit to the local park. Therefore, this regulation is not met.

The previous inspection report found that the school did not comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and did not devise a three-year accessibility plan for the secondary premises. The school has now drawn up a three-year accessibility improvement plan for the secondary premises to fulfil its duties under the Equality Act 2010. The plan indicates how it will ensure that all pupils, staff and visitors have access to the premises, curriculum and information. This requirement is now met.

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.

- Make appropriate arrangements for providing outside space for secondary pupils to play safely (paragraph 23(s)).

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Islamic day school		
Date school opened	1989		
Age range of pupils	4–16 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 84	Girls: 156	Total: 240
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,500		
Address of school	7 Bridges Place, Off Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4HW		
Telephone number	0207 471 8283		
Email address	headteacher@almuntadaschool.org		
Headteacher	Mr Ziad Chehimi (primary), Mrs Salma Ullah (secondary), Mr Saeed		
Proprietor	Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust		