

The School of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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 School of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in 2001 and is situated in Maida Vale in the London Borough of Brent. The school is owned by the Iranian Embassy. There are currently 23 pupils on roll aged six to 14 years, although the school is registered for pupils aged six to 17 years. Most pupils are Iranian nationals and some have dual British-Iranian nationality. The Iranian National Curriculum is taught in Farsi. English is taught as a second language and used alongside Farsi in science and mathematics for the older pupils. Many of the pupils will return to Iran to complete their education, which is one of the school's aims.

Context of the inspection

When the school was last inspected in January 2010, provision for ensuring pupils' welfare, health and safety was unsatisfactory. This was principally because the school did not keep up to date with the required procedures on child protection, vetting of staff and completing risk assessments. The school received its first progress monitoring visit in November 2010. The inspection found that the school had made unsatisfactory progress and did not meet a significant number of regulations. The school submitted two action plans which were judged to be unsatisfactory.

This is the second progress monitoring visit to the school to assess the amount of progress made in implementing its action plan since the previous progress monitoring visit.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous inspection of January 2010 and the progress monitoring visit of November 2010 reported that neither the designated person nor the staff had received child protection training. The school had not updated its child protection policy to reflect the individual circumstances of the school and to have regard to the Department's guidance.

Weaknesses have remained. Although staff have attended the basic child protection training, the designated person has not received the advanced child protection training as required. The school has updated its child protection policy, but has yet to reflect the individual circumstances of the school and to take account of recent requirements and guidelines. The current policy does not:

- state that it is in line with locally agreed inter-agency procedures agreed through the local safeguarding board
- make clear it is available to parents and carers on the school website or, where there is no website, in hard copy on request
- confirm that the school operates safe recruitment procedures including Criminal Records Bureau checks on all persons in regular contact with pupils, including volunteers and staff employed by another organisation
- provide the address and telephone number of the local safeguarding board, together with named officers for contact
- set out clearly the arrangements for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff, including the proprietor, headteacher and all others with regular contact with pupils within the context of the school
- provide guidance for staff on how to avoid harming pupils or putting themselves at risk of allegations
- set out clearly procedures for dealing with abuse by pupils against another pupil
- make clear that evidence must be carefully documented
- name all the designated persons responsible for child protection in the school
- state that any deficiencies or weaknesses in child protection arrangements will be remedied immediately.

The current policy does not incorporate the reporting requirements that came into force on 1 October 2009, namely by:

- making clear that the school will inform Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but no later than within 14 days, of any actual abuse or allegations of abuse on the premises
- stating explicitly the reporting arrangements, making clear that the local safeguarding board must be informed and provided with the evidence within 24 hours of a disclosure or suspicion of abuse, and that the school will take no further action until the advice of the local safeguarding board has been obtained
- acknowledging the requirement to report to the Independent Safeguarding Authority within one month of leaving the school any persons whose services are no longer used because they are considered unsuitable to work with pupils.

The last inspection and the progress monitoring visit found that the school had no regular or updated risk assessments completed for the premises or the activities and visits undertaken off the site. The school had tested some of the fire extinguishers

but did not carry out the fire risk assessment on the premises and did not ensure that all the fire equipment and electrical appliances were regularly checked. There was no evidence to indicate that fire drills were undertaken. The school did not ensure that there were fire marshals in school. The first-aid policy was insufficiently detailed and did not include guidance about the level of injury that would trigger an emergency ambulance call, or explain procedures on how to deal with spillage of bodily fluids and there were no certificated first aiders in school. The school kept records of the daily absence of pupils but did not meet the regulations for maintaining an admission register or attendance registers. The school did not have an accessibility improvement plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (now the Equality Act 2010).

This progress monitoring visit has found that the school has still not undertaken robust checks on the premises to minimise risks and has not ensured that risk assessments on activities and visits off the site are in place. The school has recently tested the fire equipment, but has yet to check the electrical appliances to ensure that they are safely operational. Fire drills are now undertaken regularly and all staff and pupils have received 'fire safety awareness' training. However, there is no nominated fire warden in school. There is no evidence to indicate that the school has carried out fire risk assessment on the premises to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The first-aid policy remains insufficiently detailed and does not include guidance about the level of injury that would trigger an emergency ambulance call, or explain procedures on how to deal with spillage of blood or bodily fluids. Furthermore, there are no certificated first aiders in school as required. The attendance registers show the daily absences, but do not use the recommended codes. The school has yet to establish an admission register which meets the requirements. The school has not devised an appropriate three-year accessibility improvement plan to fulfil its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The earlier inspection and the progress monitoring visit found that staff were appointed by the Iranian Embassy and had undergone checks in Iran of appropriateness to teach, but there was no evidence of staff having undergone enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks in this country. There was no single central register to show that staff had undergone all the required checks. Weaknesses have remained. The school has not made the required Criminal Records Bureau checks on all members of staff, volunteers and the proprietorial body. The school does not have a single central register to show all the required information on its checks on staff and proprietors.

The last inspection and the progress monitoring visit noted that there was insufficient ventilation in the workshop to remove wood dust. The school did not have a designated room for pupils who were unwell. The school has improved the ventilation system in the workshop in order to minimise health and safety risks. The school now ensures that there is a designated area for pupils to go to when they are ill. However, the room does not have a washbasin and it is not located reasonably near a toilet, so that the requirements are not met.

The last inspection and the progress monitoring visit found that the school did not provide or make available to parents and carers all the required information, detailed below, including its safeguarding children policy. Weaknesses have remained.

The previous inspection and the progress monitoring visit found that the school did not indicate in its complaints procedures that written records must show at what stage any complaint was resolved and that the policy was not available to parents, carers and others. These shortcomings have now been addressed.

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 arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and ensure that these arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7).
- Ensure that there are effective health and safety measures which have regard to the DfES guidance *Health and safety: responsibilities and powers* (DfES 0803/2001) (paragraph 11).
- Ensure that there are effective procedures for pupils' health and safety on educational visits which have regard to DfES guidance *Health and safety of pupils on educational visits* (DfES ref:HSPV2) (paragraph 12).
- Ensure that there is compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13).
- Ensure that there is a written policy on first aid and that this is implemented by the school (paragraph 14).
- Maintain an admission register and attendance register in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (paragraph 17).
- Ensure that for all appointments since 1 September 2003 an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check has been made by the proprietor in respect of any member of staff appointed to a position at the school (paragraph 19 (2)(c)).
- Ensure that, where applicable, the chairperson has made the following checks on other members of the proprietorial body: an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, the individual's identity and their right to work in the United Kingdom and in the case of any person for whom, by reason of living

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

or having lived outside the United Kingdom, further checks in regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 21(6)(b)).

- Establish a single central register and ensure that the information is recorded so that it is capable of being reproduced in a legible form (paragraph 22(2)).
- Ensure that the register shows that all the required checks are made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraph 22(3)).
- Ensure that the single central register shows all the checks on the proprietor and other members of the proprietorial body appointed on or after 1 May 2007, including the date they were made and the date on which the resulting certificate was obtained (paragraph 22(6)).
- Ensure that the single central register shows all the checks on the proprietor and other members of the proprietorial body appointed at any time before 1 May 2007, including the date they were made and the date on which the resulting certificate was obtained (paragraph 22(7)).
- Provide appropriate facilities for pupils who are ill, in accordance with regulation 5 of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 23(k)).
- Ensure that the proprietor provides the following information to parents and carers, parents and carers of prospective pupils and, on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State or an independent inspectorate.
 - Where the proprietor is a body of persons, the address and telephone number of its registered or principal office.
 - Where there is a board of governors, the name and address for correspondence of its chairperson.
 - A statement of the school's ethos (including any religious ethos) and aims (paragraph 24(1)(a)).
- Ensure that the following information is made available to parents and carers.
 - Particulars of the school's policy on and arrangements for admissions, discipline and exclusions.
 - Particulars of educational and welfare provision for pupils with statements of special educational needs and for pupils for whom English is an additional language.
 - Particulars of the curriculum policy of the school as required under part 1, paragraph 2.
 - Particulars of policies relating to bullying, health and safety, the promotion of good behaviour, and sanctions adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving as required under part 3, paragraph 9.

- Particulars of the arrangements for tackling bullying, and for promoting pupils' health and safety on the school premises and on educational visits as required under part 3 paragraphs 10, 11 and 12.
 - Particulars of academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations.
 - The number of staff employed at the school, including temporary staff, and a summary of their qualifications (paragraph 24(1)(b)).
- Publish on its website or, where no such website exists, send to parents and carers of pupils (and of prospective pupils on request) a copy of the safeguarding children policy as required under part 3, paragraph 7 (paragraph 24(1)(c)).

In order to fulfil its duties under the Equality Act 2010, the school should devise a three-year accessibility plan.

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Islamic day school
Date school opened	2001
Age range of pupils	6–17
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 11 Girls: 12 Total: 23
Annual fees (day pupils)	N/A (free to parents)
Address of school	100 Carlton Vale London NW6 5HE
Telephone number	0207 372 8051
Email address	irischool@gmail.com
Headteacher	Mr S Hosseini
Proprietor	The Iranian Embassy