

Heath House Preparatory School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland

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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

Heath House Preparatory School is a non-selective independent primary day school for boys and girls aged between four and 11 years. It is at present located in three separate buildings in Blackheath, in South East London (Tranquil Hall for Reception and Year 1, Wemyss Road building for Year 2 and Year 3, and The Old Library for Years 4 to 6) and makes use of local facilities for pupils' physical education and recreation. The school was first established in 1993 by the current proprietor and her husband. Most pupils are White British, with some from minority ethnic groups. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, there are currently 15 children in the Reception class, none of whom is in receipt of government nursery funding. There are no children with a statement of special educational needs. There are a few pupils who speak English as an additional language. The school runs a range of after-school clubs, which are well supported by pupils.

The school's ultimate aim is to prepare pupils for 11-plus entrance examinations into grammar and independent schools. This aim is supported by the school's ethos, which is based on pupils receiving a good 'all round' education, helping pupils to progress to the next stage of their education with self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience. The school motto is, 'Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth.'

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected in January 2011 when it was judged to provide a good quality of education for its pupils. However, the welfare, health and safety of pupils were judged to be inadequate, as were a number of regulations relating to the premises and accommodation. The overall effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage was also judged inadequate because of shortcomings in the welfare, health and safety of children, aspects of provision and its leadership and management. A material change inspection was incorporated into the January 2011 inspection for increasing the registered number to 102 but the change was not recommended for approval.

The school drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report. This was evaluated and accepted in April 2011. In September 2011, the school received its first monitoring inspection to evaluate the progress made by the school in implementing its action plan. A second material change inspection with respect to increasing the number on roll was combined with this visit and was reported separately. The progress monitoring visit reported that the school did not meet all

the regulations relating to the premises and accommodation and the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The material change was not recommended for approval because the premises and accommodation were not ready to accommodate pupils.

In April 2012, the school informed the Department for Education that the building work was completed and the premises were ready to accommodate pupils. The school also reviewed its action plan, which was shared with the inspector, but this was not sent to the Department for Education.

This is the report of the second progress monitoring visit made in order to evaluate the progress made by the school in implementing its action plan. The school was registered to take 80 pupils. It currently has 97 on roll and has exceeded the number for its original registration. A material change inspection visit made at the same time as this progress monitoring visit has recommended registration for a new maximum number of 200 pupils, taking into account new additional premises known as The Old Library.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous inspection of January 2011 and the progress monitoring visit of September 2011 reported that some classrooms were too small for the number of pupils and that the accommodation for pupils who were ill did not meet requirements. In response, the proprietor planned to address the shortcomings of the overcrowding of classrooms and the lack of a provision for pupils who were ill. As a result of implementing the plan, the proprietor has now secured a lease for an additional nearby building and has invested significantly in ensuring the premises are suitable for educational use. The new building, which is known as The Old Library, is now used by pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. Reception and Year 1 are now accommodated at the Tranquil Hall premises and Years 2 and 3 are at Wemyss Road building. The total space available is adequate for 200 pupils. Classrooms are now appropriate in size to allow effective teaching to take place and do not compromise pupils' health and safety. The school also ensures that there is a suitable designated area in each building for pupils who might be unwell.

The earlier inspection and the progress monitoring visit found that the school did not comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage because there were an insufficient number of suitably qualified adults. This has been remedied. The school has now employed two suitably qualified teachers to teach in this phase, including a designated Early Years Foundation Stage lead teacher.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Preparatory		
Date school opened	1993		
Age range of pupils	4–11		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 53	Girls: 44	Total: 97
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£ 10,350 – £10,950		
Address of school	37, Wemyss Road Blackheath London SE3 0TG		
Telephone number	020 8297 1900		
Email address	info@heathhouseprepschool.com		
Headteacher	Sophia Laslett		
Proprietor	Sophia Laslett and Ian Laslett		