

Menorah Grammar School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Jonathan Yodaiken

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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

Menorah Grammar School is an independent Jewish secondary school which was established in 1978 with the aim of providing a high quality education within a caring and secure Torah environment. Its purpose is to provide education for boys from the strictly observant Jewish community of north west London and to successfully blend religious and secular education. There are currently 134 students on roll from 11 to 19 years of age, of whom 42 are post-16 students. The school provides a designated special educational needs department, the Darchei Noam Centre, which is linked closely to the mainstream educational provision of the school. There are 24 students at the school who have a statement of special educational needs, and all attend the centre. All students go on to study in Yeshivah (Talmudical College) having taken GCSEs, and most take A levels.

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected in January 2012, when several regulations were not met. The school submitted an action plan to address these, which was evaluated in April 2012. The action plan was judged to be broadly satisfactory, but required improvement in a few areas. A revised action plan was formulated in April 2012. This is the first monitoring inspection visit to check the progress the school has made in implementing its revised action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in January 2012 found that the school did not meet a number of welfare, health and safety requirements. The child protection policy was found to be inadequate and the designated person and staff had not received appropriate training in child protection. There were ineffective arrangements to assess, prevent and reduce risk for educational visits. The school did not have a fire audit for its premises and fire risk assessments were not updated routinely. Although fire drills were conducted regularly, no records were kept of these events. Students did not learn enough about how to lead healthy lifestyles and the school did not consistently ensure that all areas were free from potential safety hazards. In addition, the school did not have a suitable three-year plan to improve accessibility, as required by the Equality Act 2010. In its revised action plan, the school proposed to update its child protection policy and to immediately organise appropriate child protection training for

the designated person and the whole staff. It planned to introduce effective policies and arrangements to assess and reduce risk for educational visits. It proposed to improve fire safety and awareness by conducting a fire audit for the premises and to ensure that fire risk assessments take place regularly. In addition, it would record details of all fire drills. It planned to put in place a reporting system whereby safety hazards could be dealt with speedily. The school proposed to prepare a suitable three-year plan to improve accessibility. During the monitoring inspection, all these actions were found to have been implemented, including the training of two members of the senior leadership team in child protection at the required level. The school's policies and procedures for the welfare, health and safety now comply with current guidance in all respects and reflects well on the way in which the school has responded to the issues raised in the last inspection.

The inspection in January 2012 found that the school's recruitment procedures were inadequate because prospective staff were not checked for medical fitness. In its action plan, the school proposed to review its recruitment procedures so that appropriate medical fitness checks would be made. The monitoring inspection found that the recruitment procedures check for medical fitness is now robust and compliant.

Three of the regulations relating to premises and accommodation were not met at the time of the last inspection. The maintenance of the building and decoration were judged to be inadequate, with the decoration appearing shabby and worn in most places. The flooring in the classes was considered to be a potential safety hazard, in one classroom because of torn carpet and in another because of an uneven wooden floor. In its revised action plan, the school proposed to repair the flooring in both classrooms, to mend the roof in the hall and to paint the damp patch in the upper corridor. The monitoring inspection found that the flooring provided by the school is now suitable and does not present as a hazard. Although some painting and repairs have been carried out, namely to the hall roof, the decoration of the school still appears tired and shabby. This regulation is still not met.

The inspection in January 2012 found the procedures for handling complaints to be unclear and the complaints policy to be missing many of the required details. In the action plan, the school proposed to review its procedures for handling complaints and to rewrite its complaints policy. The monitoring inspection found that the school's policy and procedures for handling complaints are now compliant with current guidance in all aspects.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made satisfactory progress and now meets all regulatory requirements except for one.

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 there is a satisfactory and adequate maintenance of decoration (paragraph 23(p)).

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Jewish Secondary School		
Date school opened	September 1978		
Age range of pupils	11–19 years		
Gender of pupils	Boys		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 132	Girls: 0	Total: 132
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 2	Girls: 0	Total: 2
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 24	Girls: 0	Total: 24
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,000		
Address of school	Abbots Road Edgware Middlesex HA8 0QS		
Telephone number	020 89069756		
Email address	Admin.mgs@hotmail.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mr K Brown		
Proprietor	Menorah Grammar School Limited		