

Finchley and Acton Yochien School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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| Inspection number | 408417 |
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| Reporting inspector | Michael Best |

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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.^{1,2}

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 Finchley and Acton Yochien School opened in North London in 1993. The school is owned by a sole proprietor and is located on two sites, in Finchley and in Acton. It admits children aged from two to six years and all of them speak Japanese as their first language, and learn English as an additional language. Virtually all of the staff are Japanese. The school follows the Japanese National Curriculum and the English Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which is taught and assessed in Japanese. The vast majority of the children live temporarily in London and move back to Japan to continue their education. There is considerable movement of children in and out of the school throughout the academic year. There has also been a high turnover of staff in the last two years. The headteacher has been in post for nearly two years. There are currently 146 full-time children on roll, of whom 64 are aged from birth to three years. There are 34 children in receipt of the government's nursery education funding. One child has a statement of special educational needs.

The school aims to help children learn the skills and knowledge they require to be successful and to grow into happy, healthy, well-behaved, kind and considerate people.

Context of the inspection

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in January 2012 when a number of regulations were judged not to be met, notably in respect of the welfare, health and safety of children. The school submitted an action plan which was evaluated in April 2012. The evaluation found that the school's proposals were inadequate and the timescale was unsatisfactory.

This progress monitoring inspection visit was made at the request of the Department to check the school's progress in implementing its action plan. The inspector made the welfare, health and safety of children the priority and evaluated the school's compliance with the independent school regulations and the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Act 2006, as these had been inspected together in January 2012.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/contents.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection in January 2012 found that the school had no written curriculum policy. A suitable policy has been drawn up and this inspection visit found that it is being satisfactorily implemented. The school has also drawn up and implemented a suitable three-year accessibility plan for improving access to the curriculum, information and the premises.

There were shortcomings identified in teaching, the use of assessment information and the quality and quantity of learning resources at the time of the inspection in January 2012. Inspectors drew attention to the lack of challenge for more able pupils in lessons and absence in classrooms of computers and other multimedia equipment. In its response to the report, the school indicated its intention to address these areas, but still has not produced plans setting out how this will be achieved. No documentary evidence was made available on this inspection visit about: the school's monitoring of teaching and learning; the provision for staff training to improve teaching and assessment practices; or, how the school plans to improve the provision and use of learning resources. Accordingly, these regulations remain unmet.

A number of failings in relation to children's welfare, health and safety were identified during the inspection in January 2012. This found that the school's safeguarding procedures were not implemented effectively because not all staff were trained at the appropriate levels in child protection. The school has partly implemented its proposed action plan by providing basic child protection training for all staff in August 2012. However, it was unable to produce documentary evidence on this inspection visit that it has designated persons for child protection in place who have attended and completed the required higher level courses. The inspection in January 2012 also found failings in the arrangements for ensuring the health and safety of children and adults because the required regular checks on fire alarms, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers were not being made and recorded. In addition, the school was not maintaining a record of the fire drills held when the premises were occupied. Some progress has been made in implementing the school's action plan: annual checks have been made on the equipment at both sites and the regular checks at the Finchley site are recorded, together with information about fire drills. The records at the Acton site are not properly maintained. During the inspection visit, a fire drill was held at Finchley and the school was evacuated promptly. However, the inspector drew the school's attention to the malfunctioning of an automatic door closer.

The inspection in January 2012 identified shortcomings in the provision of information provided for parents, carers and others. In its response the school proposed addressing most, but not all, of the requirements. While the school has confirmed that the child protection policy is now on the website, not all the required information about the proprietor is available. In addition, the school has not made clear to parents, carers and others how they can access all the policies and other

documents specified by the regulations. Since the inspection in January 2012, the school has revised its complaints procedures and these now meet requirements.

The failings in the regulations above result in a number of requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and the Childcare Act 2006 not being met. In addition, the school has not demonstrated that the requirements relating to staff qualifications, identified as not being met at the time of the inspection in January 2012, are now met. Most members of staff have qualifications awarded by institutions in their native Japan; the school has not obtained the necessary confirmation that these meet the current qualification requirements in England or ensured that there are sufficient trained staff at the designated levels at both sites.

The school has therefore failed to make adequate progress overall in implementing its action plan. It still does not comply with all regulatory requirements, including some regarding pupils' welfare, health and safety.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010³ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- ensure that the teaching involves well-planned lessons, effective teaching methods, suitable activities and appropriate management of class time (paragraph 3(c))
- ensure that teachers show a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the children, and ensure these are taken into account in the planning of lessons (paragraph 3(d))
- ensure that classroom resources are of an adequate quality, quantity and range and that they are used effectively (paragraph 3(f))
- ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at the school and arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7)
- ensure that there are effective measures to ensure children's health and safety which have regard to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance (paragraph 11)
- ensure that there is compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13)

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made.

- ensure that the proprietor provides to parents and carers, parents and carers of prospective children and, on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State or an independent inspectorate, all of the following information:
 - the school’s address and telephone number and the name of the headteacher
 - where the proprietor is an individual provide their full name and address for correspondence during both term time and holidays and a telephone number or numbers on which they can be contacted at all times (paragraph 24(1)(a))

- ensure that all of the following information is made available to parents and carers, parents and carers of prospective children and, on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State or an independent inspectorate:
 - particulars of the school’s policy on, and arrangements for, admissions, discipline and exclusions
 - particulars of educational and welfare provision for children with statements of special educational needs and for children who speak English as an additional language
 - particulars of policies relating to bullying, health and safety, the promotion of good behaviour, and sanctions adopted in the event of children misbehaving as required under part 3, paragraph 9
 - particulars of the arrangements for tackling bullying, and for promoting children’s 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
 - details of the complaints procedure adopted by the school, together with details of the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year
 - details of the number of staff employed at the school, including temporary staff, and a summary of their qualifications (paragraph 24(1)(b)).

In order to comply with the welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, the school must:

- ensure that safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively
- ensure that the designated person for child protection is appropriately trained at the advanced level and attends refresher training every two years
- ensure that all members of staff are appropriately trained in child protection, understand the school’s safeguarding policy and procedures and that they are implemented effectively
- ensure that a member of staff on the Acton and Finchley sites holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification (as defined by the Children’s Workforce

Development Council) and half of all other staff members hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification

- ensure that reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire. Ensure that a fire risk assessment is carried out, and is reviewed regularly, and appropriate fire detection and control equipment, for example fire alarms and emergency lighting, are in working order.

In order to meet the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006, those who provide the registered provision for children under the age of three must:

- ensure that safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively
- ensure that the designated person for child protection is appropriately trained at the advanced level and attends refresher training every two years
- ensure that all members of staff are appropriately trained in child protection, understand the school's safeguarding policy and procedures and that they are implemented effectively
- ensure that a member of staff on the Acton and Finchley sites holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification (as defined by the Children's Workforce Development Council) and half of all other staff members hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification
- ensure that reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire. Ensure that a fire risk assessment is carried out, and is reviewed regularly, and appropriate fire detection and control equipment, for example fire alarms and emergency lighting, are in working order.

School details

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| School status | Independent | | |
| Type of school | Kindergarten | | |
| Date school opened | 1993 | | |
| Age range of pupils | 2–6 years | | |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed | | |
| Number on roll (full-time pupils) | Boys: 73 | Girls: 73 | Total: 146 |
| Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision | Boys: 37 | Girls: 27 | Total: 64 |
| Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs | Boys: 1 | Girls: 0 | Total: 1 |
| Number of pupils who are looked after | Boys: 0 | Girls: 0 | Total: 0 |
| Annual fees (day pupils) | £6,135 | | |
| Annual fees (childcare) | £6,195 full-time and £4,365 part-time | | |
| Address of school | 6 Hendon Avenue Finchley London N3 1UE | | |
| Telephone number | 020 8343 2191 | | |
| Email address | schooladministrator@goldershillschool.co.uk | | |
| Headteacher | S Kitano | | |
| Proprietor | K Maeda | | |