

Saint-Pierre Prep School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Judith Charlesworth

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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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

Saint-Pierre is an independent day preparatory school for boys and girls aged between two and a half and 11 years of age. The school opened in 1952 as an independent day and boarding school for boys aged four to 18 years. It first took girls in 1985. The school was registered to provide for up to 30 children under three years old in 2008. There are currently eight children under three years old in the registered childcare provision. They attend the Nursery class along with the rest of the pre-reception age children. Thirty children are entitled to free education for three- and four-year-olds.

The school is located in a large, detached, Victorian house in Leigh-on-Sea. There are currently 105 children aged three years and above on roll, 21 of whom attend part-time. The number on roll has increased by a few pupils since the school was last inspected. The school's primary aim is: 'to work in effective collaboration with parents and pupils to ensure that each individual child is enabled to develop their true potential to the full in all areas of the curriculum.'

Context of the inspection

The school was inspected in January 2012. It was judged to provide a good quality of education but did not meet a number of regulations. The school provided an action plan in February 2012 to explain how it intended to meet these regulations. This was evaluated in April 2012. The action described as taken or proposed was found to be inadequate, and the timescale for implementation judged to be unsatisfactory. A further action plan was provided and evaluated in May 2012. The action described as taken or proposed in this plan was found to be broadly satisfactory, with some improvement required, and the timescale for implementation was satisfactory. This is the school's first monitoring visit to evaluate the implementation of its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The school has now successfully addressed the regulatory failures identified in the previous inspection.

The inspection in January 2012 found that the school did not have a curriculum policy which provided a summary of the curriculum provided to pupils. The post-inspection action plan stated that a new policy would be devised through staff discussion. This has been satisfactorily achieved. The policy includes relevant information and effective guidance for staff and parents about the school's systems and practices. It includes an overview of the curriculum, the planning process for subjects from long-term plans to lesson plans, and the various forms of assessment used. It also outlines staff members' curriculum responsibilities, the cross-curricular activities provided. It describes how the school provides for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Throughout the policy, there is appropriate reference to the provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, although this does not yet reflect the new national arrangements introduced in September 2012.

The inspection found that the school had no policy or scheme of work for the physical area of learning, although sport was a regular part of the curriculum. The school planned to devise these within a month. A suitable policy and appropriate planning has now been developed for physical education for all age groups, including children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The January 2012 inspection found that school's first aid policy was lacking in sufficient detail to provide suitable guidance for staff, and that several aspects of the fire safety requirements were not met. In particular, some required training had lapsed, there was no fire risk policy, and records of fire drills and checks of equipment were not systematically kept. The school planned to rectify these failings by the beginning of the next term. A new first aid policy has now been written which gives suitable guidance to staff about what to do when there has been an accident. This relates well to the school's policies for recording accidents, storing and administering medication and first aid materials, and keeping staff informed about pupils' individual medical and dietary needs. The school has considerably improved its fire-safety practices. All staff have recently received fire-awareness and fire marshal training. An external organisation has completed a new fire risk assessment and there is a new fire risk policy outlining procedures to minimise fire risks. Classrooms and corridors have appropriate notices and instructions for evacuation. Fire drills and checks of fire equipment are now recorded systematically.

The school was found to have no appropriate facilities for sick or injured pupils. The action plan outlined a proposal to make alterations to the building to meet this

regulation. The school has now refurbished a room to provide suitable facilities for pupils who are ill, including a sink. The conversion of a storage area adjoining this room into a new toilet, and decoration of the surrounding area, are almost complete.

The inspection of January 2012 found that there were insufficient staff trained in first aid for very young children. The school said that it would address this quickly. All members of staff have now been trained in first aid, and two members of staff who work with the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage have undergone additional first-aid training for young children.

Three of the regulations relating to the provision of up-to-date information for parents were not met at the time of the January 2012 inspection. The school now has all the required information on its website, including items that were previously missing.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

The school's registered provision for childcare meets the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Preparatory		
Date school opened	1952		
Age range of pupils	2-11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 50	Girls: 34	Total: 84
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 12	Girls: 9	Total: 21
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 5	Girls: 3	Total: 8
Annual fees (day pupils)	£5,400–£6,656		
Annual fees (childcare)	£5,400 (full time) £20.00 (per session)		
Address of school	16 Leigh Road Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1LE		
Telephone number	01702 474164		
Email address	info@saintpiereschool.com		
Headteacher	Christopher Perkins		
Proprietor	Kurt Davies and Christopher Perkins		