

Winston 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

Winston House Preparatory School is a co-educational independent school for pupils aged from three to 11 years of age. It opened in January 2008 in a Grade II listed building in South Woodford, London. The school is managed by a sole proprietor. There are currently 26 pupils on roll, including 18 in the Early Years Foundation Stage. There is one child in the Nursery class who attends the school on a part-time basis. Nine children in the Nursery have their places funded under the nursery grant scheme. None of the pupils have a statement of special educational needs.

The aim of the school is to help its pupils become creative, self-motivated and independent by supporting and challenging them in all aspects of school life, whatever their ability. The school believes in providing a caring and sensitive approach to learning and teaching whilst aiming to uphold and encourage traditional values, to give pupils the best possible foundation for their future education and life in society.

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2012 when it was found to provide a satisfactory quality of education.

Context of the inspection

The inspection report of March 2012 indicated non-compliance in a number of the regulations. The school submitted an action plan indicating how it intended to meet the regulations. The action plan was evaluated in June 2012 and was judged to be inadequate. The school revised its action plan prior to this visit. This was not evaluated by the Department for Education (DfE), but was shared with the inspector.

This is the report of the first progress monitoring visit undertaken in order to check the progress the school has made towards implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection report of March 2012 indicated the school did not maintain an up-to-date record of the safeguarding checks on supply staff and those providing after-school clubs who were not directly employed by the school. Checks were completed

on the suitability of staff, including those not employed directly by the school. However, at the time of the inspection, not all of the required information had been entered in the school's single central register. The person responsible for overseeing safeguarding arrangements had not completed appropriate training, although the remaining staff had been appropriately trained.

In response, the school has reviewed and improved its policies and procedures to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school. The safeguarding children policy includes all the required information and this is implemented in full in respect of training and recruitment for all staff, including those who are not directly employed by the school. All staff have now received training at the appropriate levels in child protection, including the designated child protection officer and the deputy officer. The school has made all of the required vetting checks on all members of staff to ensure their suitability to work with children. All of the necessary information has been entered correctly in the school's single central register for all staff, including those who are not directly employed by the school. The school is now aware of all the safeguarding requirements.

The 2012 inspection noted there were also issues regarding the premises, which put pupils at risk; for example, old furniture was piled up outside the school building. The Nursery classroom was spacious and washroom facilities alongside allowed easy access for children. Other washroom facilities within the school were not designated separately for staff and pupils. The school has since updated its health and safety policy and procedures and has conducted regular checks on the premises and resources, including outside the building to minimise risks to pupils and adults. The school now provides separate washroom facilities for staff and pupils and ensures that these are clearly labelled.

The previous inspection found that the school's handbook and prospectus did not contain a staff list with their qualifications and information on the pupils' previous academic results or informed parents and carers that these were available on request. A new prospectus and a parent handbook have been produced; these meet the requirements.

At the time of the last inspection, the school's complaints procedure did not stipulate that recommendations from the appeals panel were to be sent by electronic mail or otherwise given to the complainant and, where relevant, the person complained about, and that these recommendations were available for inspection on the school premises by the proprietor and senior staff. The school has reviewed its complaints policy and procedures and has rectified these weaknesses.

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 School		
Date school opened	2008		
Age range of pupils	3–11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 15	Girls: 10	Total: 25
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 1	Total: 1
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)	£4,857–£7,050		
Address of school	140 High Road South Woodford London E18 2QS		
Telephone number	0208 505 6565		
Email address	info@winstonhouseschool.org.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs Shirmila Sharma		
Proprietor	Educational World Lit		