

The School of The Islamic Republic of Iran

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

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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

The School of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in 2001 and is situated in Maida Vale in the London Borough of Brent. The school is owned by the Iranian Embassy. There are currently 28 pupils on roll aged from six to 10 years of age, although the school is registered for pupils aged from six to 17 years. Most pupils are Iranian nationals and some have dual British-Iranian nationality. The Iranian National Curriculum is taught in Farsi. English is taught as an additional language and used alongside Farsi in science and mathematics for the older pupils. Many of the pupils will return to Iran to complete their education, which is one of the school's aims.

Context of the inspection

When the school was last inspected in January 2010, provision for ensuring pupils' welfare, health and safety was inadequate. This was principally because the school did not keep up to date with the required procedures on child protection, vetting of staff and completing risk assessments. The school received its first progress monitoring visit in November 2010. The inspection found that the school had made inadequate progress and did not meet a significant number of regulations. The school submitted two action plans which were judged to be inadequate.

A second progress monitoring visit was made in February 2012 to assess the amount of progress the school had made in implementing its action plan since the previous progress monitoring visit. It was found that the school had not made sufficient progress in meeting the regulations. The school then submitted an action plan which was evaluated in May 2012 as inadequate. This is the third progress monitoring visit to assess the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The inspection of January 2010 and the previous two progress monitoring visits reported that neither the designated person nor the staff had received child protection training. The school had not updated its child protection policy to reflect the individual circumstances of the school and to have regard to the Department's guidance. It was found that although staff had attended the basic child protection training, the designated person had not received the advanced child protection training as required. The school has now updated its child protection policy, which

meets the requirements. However, although the teaching staff have all been trained in safeguarding, the designated person has not yet attended the appropriate training. This regulation is still not met.

The last inspection and the progress monitoring visits found that the school had no regular or updated risk assessments completed for the premises or the activities and visits undertaken off the site. This has now been rectified and suitable risk assessments are in place. The school did not previously meet the Regulatory Reform (Fire safety) Order 2005. It has now had the fire equipment checked and it is under an annual maintenance contract, the electrical equipment has been tested and fire drills are carried out and recorded regularly. A fire risk assessment has now been carried out. The first aid policy was insufficiently detailed and there were no certificated first aiders in school. The first aid policy is now suitable and there is a trained first aider on site. The school's admission register and attendance registers now meet the regulations. The school now has an accessibility improvement plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (now the Equality Act 2010).

The earlier inspection and the progress monitoring visits found that staff were appointed by the Iranian Embassy and had undergone checks in Iran of appropriateness to teach, but there was no evidence of staff having undergone enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks in this country. There was no single central register to show that staff had undergone all the required checks. The school has now made the required Criminal Records Bureau checks on all members of staff and the single central register shows all the required information.

The last inspection and the progress monitoring visits noted that the school did not have a designated room for pupils who were unwell. There is now a designated area for pupils to go to when they are ill, which is adjacent to the toilets. The last inspection and the progress monitoring visits found that the school did not provide or make available to parents and carers all the required information, including its safeguarding children policy. This has now been rectified and the required information is made available.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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 the designated safeguarding officer is trained to the appropriate level so that arrangements made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph (7)).

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

School details

School status	Independent
Type of school	Islamic day school
Date school opened	2001
Age range of pupils	6–17 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 14 Girls: 14 Total: 28
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0 Girls: 0 Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	N/A (free to parents)
Address of school	100 Carlton Vale, London, NW6 5HE
Telephone number	020 73728051
Email address	irischool@gmail.com
Headteacher	Mr S Hosseini
Proprietor	The Iranian Government Education Department