

The Japanese School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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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 Japanese School opened in west London in 1976 as an independent primary and secondary day school for pupils from six to 15 years of age. There are currently 436 pupils on roll and none has a statement of special educational needs. It is a Japanese-speaking school that follows the Japanese National Curriculum. The school is part of a worldwide network of Japanese schools and it receives financial support for staffing and other subsidies from the Japanese government. The school was created to provide for the children of expatriates on secondment from their companies in Japan, so that they can have a continuous Japanese education. Each year, over a third of pupils leave the school and a similar number of pupils join the school. In the previous academic year, over 200 pupils left the school other than at the usual times to continue their education in Japan. The school has no religious affiliation. The school was previously inspected in June 2011. A key principle is: 'The school aims to educate pupils to be independent citizens (of the world, Japan, and Britain) with broad minds, skills to live robustly, and with humanity.'

Context of the inspection

When inspected by Ofsted in June 2011, the school did not meet all the regulations. A notice to improve was served by the Department for Education in July 2011. The action plan the school submitted to address the shortfalls was evaluated in September 2011 and judged inadequate. A further action plan was submitted in November 2011, which was also judged to be inadequate in some respects. A first monitoring visit took place in March 2012 to check the progress being made by the school in implementing its action plan. While the school had addressed some of the requirements, a number remained unmet. The school submitted a further action plan which was evaluated and judged to be broadly satisfactory in July 2012. The purpose of this second monitoring visit was to check the progress the school has made in implementing its latest action plan.

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 first progress monitoring visit of March 2012 found that the school had not addressed all of the requirements regarding the safeguarding of pupils that had been identified in the full inspection in June 2011. The checks required on the staff and members of the proprietorial body were incomplete. The single central record, on which these checks are recorded, was also incomplete. The school has made good progress in implementing its latest action plan and now meets all the requirements for safeguarding. The required checks are now made and are completed on staff prior to them taking up their appointments. Checks which had not previously been completed on staff already in post are now in place. The required checks have been made on the members of the proprietorial body. All these checks are now recorded on a single central record which meets the requirements in full.

At the time of the first progress monitoring visit, the school had addressed some, but not all, of the shortfalls identified in the full inspection in June 2011 relating to the school's provision of information for parents, carers and others and to the complaints procedure. Good progress has been made in implementing the school's latest action plan and all the omissions have been remedied. The school's website now provides the required details of the number of complaints in the last school year. The complaints procedure, also available on the website, now includes information about any correspondence relating to complaints being kept confidential.

The full inspection in June 2011 found that the school did not have a three-year access improvement plan as required by the Equality Act 2010. This was in the process of being drawn up at the time of the first progress monitoring visit and work was underway on the building to improve access and facilities for people with disabilities. The school has now completed this work and has a three-year plan in place.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Japanese day primary and secondary school		
Date school opened	1976		
Age range of pupils	6–15 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 256	Girls: 180	Total: 436
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)	£2,010		
Address of school	87 Creffield Road Acton London W3 9PU		
Telephone number	020 8993 7145		
Email address	sugano-s@thejapaneseschool.ltd.uk		
Headteacher	Kenro Tomomura		
Proprietor	The Japanese School Limited		