

La Chouette School

Independent school standard inspection report

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URN for registered childcare	EY440360
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Reporting inspector	Flora Bean

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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 purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.^{1, 2}

The inspection of registered provision was conducted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006.^{3, 4}

Information about the school

La Chouette School is a small, independent, bilingual, pre-prep school situated in Ealing Broadway, London. The premises are located in a three-storey building and occupy a newly built extension at the back of the first floor. The school opened in January 2012 to provide a bilingual education in French and English. The curriculum is based on the French educational system. The school is registered for a maximum of 60 children aged from two to six years.

There are currently 25 children on roll, with two nursery classes and a joint Reception and Year 1 class. There are also six children aged two to three receiving registered childcare provision. This provision is inspected separately. All children aged three and four receive government funding. No child has a statement of special educational needs. The majority of children are of French nationality, with a small number of English, Belgian, Moroccan and Turkish children represented. The majority of children are bilingual with some beginners in French and/ or English.

The school provides after-school care from 3.30pm to 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 12.00pm to 2.00pm on Wednesdays during term time. This is the school's first inspection.

The provision for children aged 0 to 3 years of age is housed in the same building as the school but is subject to separate inspection. Ofsted last inspected the provision in May 2012. The report of this inspection is available on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Evaluation of the school

The quality of the provision for children is good and all the regulations are met. The quality of teaching is good, as is the provision for children's spiritual, moral, social

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

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

³ Schools which provide childcare for children from birth until the term in which they reach their third birthday must register this provision separately with Ofsted.

⁴ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents.

and cultural development. As a result, all children, including the youngest, progress well, academically and in their personal development. Provision for children's welfare, health and safety, including safeguarding, is good. Behaviour is good and the school's welcoming atmosphere is highly appreciated by children and parents and carers.

Quality of education

The curriculum is good; it covers a broad and well-balanced range of subjects and activities with detailed planning which caters well for the needs of all children. French and English are used in equal measure for teaching and other purposes.

In the joint Reception class and Year 1 class, the curriculum places a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy to develop speech and language and the beginnings of effective reading, spelling and number skills in both French and English. Children also benefit well from specialist teaching in music, dance and art history. There is time for science and exploring the natural world, constructive play and problem solving, regular gym sessions and time for outside play, in almost all weathers

In the Nursery, detailed planning covers all the areas of learning well. Children's achievements are good in relation to their starting points and capabilities because staff understand the early learning goals and implement these effectively and patiently. Classrooms are bright and spacious, with colourful displays of photographs and children's work.

In the warmer seasons the whole school regularly uses a local park for supervised play and organised games. The school's excellent enrichment programme takes place on Wednesdays when the whole school meets together in assemblies and then to socialise. The small outdoor space is well used by all children for supervised free play. Specialist weekly dance lessons and gym sessions on the other days ensure that children have regular physical exercise. On those days where there is less physical activity some children become restless, particularly towards the end of the morning session."

Teaching and assessment are good overall, with some outstanding features, contributing significantly to children's overall good progress. Clear routines ensure children settle well and are familiar with the daily pattern. Small classes ensure that teachers know each child well and offer a good level of individual support. Teachers patiently help children switch naturally from English to French. In all parts of the school, different work is set according to the ability of the child, with children moving between groups of similar need and ability. Staff ensure that children have a rich variety of well-planned activities and self-initiated play, with staff intervention, when appropriate, to support unobtrusively the next steps in learning.

All children work extremely well together in pairs and groups. Excellent teaching in art history for the older groups gives children opportunities to learn about

contemporary artists, art style and colour choice and then create their own work. Generally, a good balance is struck between teacher-led and child-initiated activities but on occasion, not enough opportunities are provided for children to work independently. Appropriate questioning promotes curiosity and interest. In the Nursery this is particularly clear in 'Show and Tell', 'circle time' and story time when children respond well to teachers' prompting and are also ready to initiate their own ideas.

Procedures to assess children's achievements are good. All children are carefully monitored and progress recorded for each stage of their development. Progress is regularly discussed with parents and individual work is sent home for children to share with parents. The variety of work covered, in the children's learning profiles and in books, is good. Teachers mark children's work regularly and helpfully and talk to them about their work. In the younger children's learning profiles, photographs of achievements and activities, including the use of information and communication technology (ICT), demonstrate their good progress over time.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. The school follows the French curriculum and is 'laic' (secular). Children's overall personal development is enhanced through weekly school assemblies which encourage children to celebrate each other's achievements and any special events. The children are well behaved and demonstrate good levels of tolerance and acceptance of others. The older children carry out small tasks for the younger children and, as a result, are learning to be responsible. Well-planned play areas encourage good social development.

The school makes good use of the cultural diversity of the children to ensure that they have an appreciation of their own culture and are respectful of others. The school has begun to make good links with a range of local and national organisations.

The children are happy to be at school and enjoy all that it has to offer. Their attendance level is very good.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school makes good provision for the welfare, health and safety of all children. Staff apply clear and simple rules consistently to ensure all are safe. There is very little unkind behaviour and in the event, this is swiftly dealt with in a positive and constructive manner. Parents report in the questionnaires that they are highly appreciative of staff care for their children and would wholeheartedly recommend the school.

Appropriate policies are in place, including those for safeguarding and child protection, first aid, fire risk and accident, and these are effectively implemented.

Health and safety risk assessments are fully in place and fire drills and alarm checks are regularly carried out. All staff are trained in paediatric first aid. All staff, including the child protection officer, are trained appropriately in safeguarding. All recruitment checks are carried out correctly. Children are well supervised at all times.

The school provides good quality hot meals by outside caterers and children are taught about how to stay safe and eat healthily.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school has completed thorough and appropriate checks on all employees. It ensures all supply staff employed through agencies are properly checked. It has a single central record where the results of checks are properly recorded.

Premises and accommodation at the school

The building is light and spacious, with colourful displays of pupils' work. Outside space is limited but used well. There are excellent washroom and toilet facilities. The buildings are spotlessly clean, hygienic and well looked after. There is adequate heating and lighting, sound and ventilation in all areas of the school. Classrooms are spacious and more than adequate for the numbers in each class, with appropriate furniture and fittings. The school provides appropriate facilities for children who are ill. The accommodation for dining is used well by staggering lunch.

Provision of information

The school's informative website provides parents and prospective parents and carers with all required information, including all school policies. Written reports are sent to parents and carers at the end of each term. There are regular weekly news bulletins and regular updates on the school website.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The complaints policy meets all requirements.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The proprietor has ensured that the school meets The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, schedule 1 ('the Regulations').⁵

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

⁵ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/contents/made.

What the school could do to improve further

While not required by regulations, the school might wish to consider the following points for development.

- "Ensure all children have some exercise each day to address the issue of children's restlessness"?
- Ensure that there are always opportunities for children to extend their work independently.

Inspection judgements

outstanding	good	satisfactory	inadequate
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The quality of education

Overall quality of education		✓		
How well the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of pupils		✓		
How effective teaching and assessment are in meeting the full range of pupils' needs		✓		
How well pupils make progress in their learning		✓		

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Quality of provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development		✓		
The behaviour of pupils		✓		

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The overall welfare, health and safety of pupils		✓		
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The quality of the registered provision for children aged from birth to three years

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage		✓		
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage		✓		
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage		✓		
Overall effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage		✓		

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Bilingual French and English		
Date school opened	2012		
Age range of pupils	2 to 6 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 12	Girls: 13	Total: 25
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 3	Girls: 3	Total: 6
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£ 7,500		
Annual fees (childcare)	£ 7,800		
Address of school	17, The Mall, Ealing, London W5 2PJ		
Telephone number	07557 029255		
Email address	No email		
Headteacher	Magali Amar		
Proprietor	Magali Amar		

This letter is provided for the school, parents and carers to share with their children. It describes Ofsted's main findings from the inspection of their school.



13 December 2012

Dear Children,

Inspection of La Chouette, 17, The Mall, Ealing, London W5 2PJ

It was a real pleasure and privilege to spend two days in your school. I was impressed by the beautifully renovated building which is so bright and colourful for you to enjoy.

The quality of education in your school is good. Your curriculum is good and teaching is also good and they account for the good progress that you make. But what impressed me most was you, the children. You were all working and playing very hard, enjoying your learning and being with each other. You were all very well settled and helpful and considerate of each other. Your behaviour was good.

It was also very good to see that you know your teachers well, and I was particularly impressed by the way that they look after you and spend time helping you learn and to enjoy activities. I hope you will continue to appreciate your time in the school and work with them.

Being in a new school is very exciting because you can help it to grow and develop. I have made two suggestions for improvement, which you and your teachers can consider:

- ensure all children have some exercise each day to address the issue of children's restlessness
- ensure that there are always opportunities for children to work independently.

I wish you all every success in your time at La Chouette and for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Flora Bean
Lead Inspector