

# The Alyssa School

Bibi House, 69-85 Whitmore Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0NR

## Inspection dates

17 April 2013

## Reason for inspection

- Issues have been raised about the impact of Alyssa's new education provision for adults over the age of 19 years on the school and its students. Of particular concern has been the safeguarding of students who could come into contact with up to 60 unchecked adults.
- The inspection was carried out with Home Office staff who focused on the arrangements for adults attending the post-19 education.

## Conclusions

### *The impact of adult education provision*

- There are too few controls to separate the adult education provision from school students and to limit the access of any adults who should not be present in the school. A risk assessment is in place but this lacks detail and few controls are in place.
- There is insufficient training of adult staff and learners in child protection, while the school toilets and other facilities, such as the computer suite, are shared by adult learners and school-age students. There are no separate toilets for male staff, and they share toilets with male students.
- Although only 10 adult learners were on site at the time of this inspection, up to 60 adults are registered with Alyssa and could be on the site at any one time. This reduces the overall capacity of the school for school-age students, which is registered for 85 school students. In addition, there are not enough toilets for students and adults.

### *Other observations about the school*

- Safeguarding requirements are not met. While there are two designated staff for child protection with up-to-date training, the arrangements for inducting and training newly appointed staff in safeguarding are insufficient.
- The single central register was not available when first requested. By the end of the inspection it contained all the required information.
- The school does not follow safe recruitment procedures. The school could not provide application forms, interview records or references for some newly appointed staff.
- The computers are used by the students and, at separate times, by the adult learners. There is a limited security system to prevent adult learners and students accessing unsuitable sites.

- The accommodation is not secure. Adults studying in the building have access to the school area and the rear entrance is unlocked, allowing people from outside to enter the school unchecked.
- The attendance registers are kept up to date but the school does not differentiate between authorised or unauthorised absence, as required. The admission register has many entries where the students' previous school is not identified.
- The proprietor does not provide showers for students who receive physical education. Students sometimes undertake this off the site at centres where there are such facilities, but they mainly use the gymnasium at proprietor's other school nearby. The proprietor confirms that there no showers at this location.
- Parts of the accommodation are in a dirty, untidy or unkempt state with litter evident in some classrooms, corridors and by the rear exit. There are a number of health and safety issues relating to hygiene of toilets, damage to a wall, rotten window frames, broken or missing glass, missing electrical fixtures, and uneven block paving. Washing facilities in the toilets are inadequate because the water is not hot enough. There is insufficient external lighting as well as a lack of external recreation space for students

### Compliance with regulatory requirements

#### **The school requires improvement and must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Regulations'), and associated requirements**

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of students at the school</li> </ul>  | paragraph 7     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure the health and safety policy is implemented</li> </ul>  | paragraph 11    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure that the admission and attendance registers are maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006</li> </ul>  | paragraph 17    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure that for each member of staff appointed on or after 1 May 2007, the register of staff checks shows that the following checks were made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the person's identity</li> <li>– the person is not barred from working with children</li> <li>– of relevant qualifications, if appropriate</li> <li>– whether an enhanced criminal records certificate was obtained</li> <li>– in the case of any person for whom, by reason of living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, the further checks made which have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State</li> <li>– of their right to work in the United Kingdom</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | paragraph 22(3) |

- provide suitable toilet and washing facilities for the sole use of students paragraph 23A(1)(a)
- ensure that suitable showers are provided for students aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education paragraph 23A(1)(c)
- ensure that the school's accommodation and facilities are maintained to a sufficient standard to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students paragraph 23C
- ensure that external lighting is provided in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the school premises paragraph 23E(b)
- ensure that washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot water paragraph 23F(1)(b)
- ensure that there is suitable outdoor space to enable students to play outside. paragraph 23G(1)(b)

## Inspection team

George Derby, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

## Information about this school

- The Alyssa school was opened in 2005 and was registered in 2008. It was inspected in September 2012 and is allowed to take up to 85 students aged 11 to 19 years. Currently there are 32 full-time students on roll aged 14 to 17 years.
- Since the inspection, the proprietor has developed provision for post-19 students and has 60 registered adults up to the age to 40 years. On the day of this inspection, 10 adults were receiving education.
- The school's students are referred mostly by Pupil Connect (Birmingham City Council) which secures education for young people who are not in school. A few come from mainstream schools as part of a managed move.
- A few students do not speak English or are at the early stages of speaking English. Some have missed vital years of their education in their home land. Up to 17 different nationalities make up the school community.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135688
<b>Inspection number</b>	420784
<b>DfE registration number</b>	330/6205
<p>This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.</p>	
<b>Type of school</b>	Other independent school
<b>School status</b>	Independent School
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11 to 19 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	32
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mrs Ruby Khan
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Ruby Khan
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	21 and 22 September 2012
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£6,300
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 773 4332
<b>Fax number</b>	0121 773 4332
<b>Email address</b>	alyssa@aiswm.org.uk

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