

# The Alyssa School

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

## Inspection dates

6 June 2013

## Reason for inspection

- This is a second unannounced inspection to this school. The first in April 2013 raised safeguarding concerns because of the sharing of facilities by adult learners and the school's students, including toilet and washroom facilities. There were also other shortcomings in the school's documentation, especially with regard to safe-recruitment as well as in some aspects of the premises.
- This inspection took place at the request of the Department for Education. This was to follow up the arrangements for the adult learners, and concerns about the safeguarding of students on the roll of the school. Other aspects, such as the admission of students, the school's age range and the suitability of the premises for the numbers and age range of learners at the school, were also examined.

## Conclusions

- Some, but not all of the issues found at the time of the April inspection have been addressed and the regulations relating to these are now met.
- There are no longer adult learners on the premises and all students taught on site are within the age range of 14 to 16 years. All adult learners have been moved to another site nearby. The presence of adult learners on that site was confirmed by the lead inspector for that facility.
- Because there are now no adult learners on the school site and no intention to admit any in future, this has removed some of the challenges relating to the safeguarding of students and the appropriateness of the premises. For example, the school now has sufficient washroom and toilet facilities and a re-designation of these means that there are sufficient for male students and separate facilities for male and female staff and students.
- The school now keeps appropriate evidence as to its safe recruitment procedures on-site and was able to supply this for recent staff appointments. The single central record is up to date and contains all the required information.
- The school cannot now be accessed from the rear of the building, because all doors are kept closed. External security has improved further by the school agreeing to close the access gates during lunch and break times. The school is negotiating with the childcare facility as to how the outside recreation space can be further improved so as to meet requirements.
- The school premises are clean, external lighting adequate and hot water and drinking water were readily available. Drinking water has appropriate signage.
- However, there are still some shortcomings in the premises because:

- the windows in some rooms are in need of repair or replacement; these are mainly in rooms not currently in use, but which would be used if student numbers increased
- the outside recreation space still has trip hazards and is not clearly designated separately from that available to the childcare facility which shares the building; there is litter and debris in the external area
- although there are showers available at the leisure centre that the male students can use after physical education, there are no such facilities available for the female students when they undertake physical education at the neighbouring girls' school
- in some parts of the school the paintwork has many scuff marks and is shabby.
- The attendance registers are now kept in line with requirements but the admission register does not include all the elements that it should for all students, such as the required parental details, the details of previous schools and of destination schools or colleges on leaving.
- The headteacher indicated that the school's action plan in response to the April inspection was not due to the Department for Education until 14 June and that many of the remaining issues were 'in hand' as a result of this, including a clear plan for replacement windows.

### 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**

- ensure that the admission registers are maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 paragraph 17
- 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 there is suitable outdoor space to enable students to play outside paragraph 23G(1)(b)

## Inspection team

Susan Lewis, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

## Information about this school

- The Alyssa school was opened in 2005 and registered in 2008. Its last full inspection was in September 2012. An unannounced inspection took place in April 2013 following concerns raised with the Department for Education.
- The school is allowed to take up to 85 students, aged 11 to 19 years. Currently, there are 30 full-time students on roll aged 14 to 17 years, only two of which are girls.
- At the time of the April inspection there were up to 60 adult learners registered at the same site of the school. On the day of this inspection, no adults were receiving education at the school site.
- 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.
- Students come from a wide range of backgrounds, including eastern and western European countries, the Middle East and the Asian subcontinent. A significant proportion does not speak English or is at the early stages of speaking English. Some have had limited education in their home land.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135688
<b>Inspection number</b>	423516
<b>DfE registration number</b>	330/6205
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.	
<b>Type of school</b>	Other independent school
<b>School status</b>	Independent School
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11–19 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	30
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mrs Ruby Khan
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Ruby Khan
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	17 April 2013
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£6300
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 773 4332
<b>Fax number</b>	0121773 4332
<b>Email address</b>	alyssa@aiswm.org.uk

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