

Etz Chaim School at the Belmont

89 Middleton Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 4JY

Inspection dates

28 June 2013

Context of the inspection

- The school received an unannounced emergency inspection on 10 October 2012. The inspection confirmed reports from a Trafford fire officer and the Manchester local authority designated officer for safeguarding that scaffolding surrounding the building created a health and safety hazard and that large unrestrained windows in upper floor classrooms enabled students to climb out of the building. Allegations that students were left unsupervised in the building during some breaks could not be investigated because there were no students at the school because of a religious holiday.
- The school produced an action plan in November 2012 that was evaluated in December of that year. The actions taken by the school were judged to be satisfactory subject to satisfactory implementation.
- A progress monitoring inspection was undertaken on 19 February 2013 at the request of the DfE to evaluate the progress made by the school in the implementation of its action plan. During that inspection it was confirmed that all scaffolding had been removed from the building but some windows still posed potential hazards. It was found that students were supervised effectively both in the playground and canteen during break time and a supervision rota for all breaks was in place.
- The school produced an action plan dated 8 April 2013 stating that it had conducted additional works on all windows to ensure that they could not be opened wide enough to pose any dangers. Digital images showing a number of windows fitted with bars, stoppers and restraining brackets were provided with the action plan. There was no formal evaluation of this action plan but the DfE requested this progress monitoring visit to assess the safety of all windows in the building.
- This progress monitoring inspection was undertaken at the request of the DfE to evaluate the progress made by the school in the implementation of its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan**Regulations not met**

The inspection of February 2013 found that the school had not made all windows safe. During this present inspection it was found that all windows including roof-light windows have been affixed with bars and stoppers aimed at preventing students from climbing through. Some of the opening restraints and safety bars on windows are spaced so that it would be impossible for a student to slip through, but not all. The windows in a number of classrooms still pose potential hazards because the remaining opening spaces are too wide. The school has been informed that students must not be left unsupervised in the classrooms with unsafe windows until they are made safe.

The school has not attended to all the health and safety issues regarding unsafe windows identified during the emergency inspection on 10 October 2012 and the progress monitoring inspection on 19 February 2013. The school has not maintained its accommodation to a sufficient standard to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and has not implemented its policy on health and safety effectively.

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**

Draw up a written policy which complies with relevant health and safety laws and ensure it is implemented. Regulation 11

Maintain the school's accommodation and facilities to a sufficient standard to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students, as far as is reasonably practicable.

Regulation
23C

Inspection team

Chanan Tomlin, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Information about this school

- Etz Chaim Boys' School was established in 1993 in North Manchester as a strictly orthodox Jewish secondary day school, serving a particular strand of the local Jewish religious community. It is located in a large Victorian building on a main road in Crumpsall, Manchester. There are currently 117 students on roll, aged 11 to 16 years, all of whom speak English and are of White British heritage.
- The school admits students of differing abilities, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities, three of whom currently have statements of special educational needs.
- The school's aim is 'to provide religious, personal and academic education, in order to prepare students for a full religious life in accordance with the religious outlook of their community, whilst forming upright citizens who will be able to give to the community at large'.
- The school's last full inspection was in January 2011.

School details

Unique reference number	131015
Inspection number	423230
DfE registration number	352/6053
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.	
Type of school	Secondary Boys' Jewish School
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	11–16 years
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	117
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Mr N M Halpern
Chair	Mr Y Reich
Headteacher	Rabbi Eli Cohen
Date of previous school inspection	18 January 2011
Annual fees (day pupils)	£5,580
Telephone number	0161 7400300
Fax number	0161 7400301
Email address	manager@ec-school.org.uk

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