

Jamea Al Kauthar

Ashton Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 5AJ

Inspection dates

12–13 November 2013

Context of the inspection

- This progress monitoring inspection was undertaken 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.
- The school and boarding provision were last inspected on 23–25 April 2013. It was found that the school failed to meet seven of the education standards and six of the national minimum standards for boarding, notably in respect of students' welfare health and safety, and premises and accommodation.
- The school's action plan was submitted in July 2013 and accepted as satisfactory on 1 August 2013, subject to its satisfactory implementation, which this inspection has checked.
- This was the first progress monitoring inspection to the school to check on its progress in implementing its action plan. It was carried out with no notice.
- Inspectors undertook two walks around the school premises; on one of these they were accompanied by school staff. They made short visits to lessons to evaluate welfare, health and safety. No formal lesson observations were carried out.
- Meetings took place with the Principal, the head of school, head of boarding who is also head of the madrassa, and other staff. Inspectors met students formally and informally.
- Inspectors examined a range of documentation including policies, risk assessments, students' records and staff training records.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

School leaders have demonstrated their active approach to meeting the independent school standards and the national minimum standards for boarding schools by successfully implementing most but not all aspects of the school's action plan. They have met all but two of the previously failed standards.

The April 2013 inspection judged students' welfare, health and safety to be inadequate. This was because students' needs were not fully met as the environment was not physically safe. In March 2013 the fire authority raised concerns regarding the maintenance of fire doors and asked that emergency lighting be provided. The April 2013 inspection found that the school had been too slow to address these issues. It found that fire risk assessments were in place but the actions identified were not always completed and actions taken were not recorded. The inspection found that risk assessments for other aspects of health and safety lacked detail, such as those for poor quality flooring or the unused and out-of-bounds areas of the school. The school could not provide evidence that the electrical system had been checked and found to be safe, or demonstrate that work carried out by the school's maintenance staff, such as for electrical repairs, had been done

by staff with the required qualifications.

Evidence analysed during this progress monitoring inspection confirms that the school now has a health and safety policy which meets requirements and that the school buildings are now safe. For example, all wiring has been made safe and evidence has been presented that this work has been carried out, checked and passed by a suitably qualified electrician. Evidence confirms that all the required checks relating to health and safety have been carried out and the appropriate certificates awarded, for example, by the Environmental Health Department for the water supply and by the appropriate authority for all gas services. All out-of-bounds and potentially dangerous areas have been made secure and inaccessible to students. These areas are included in the school's risk assessments.

School leaders have improved the robustness of risk assessments. There is now a rolling programme for monitoring these and for ensuring that any necessary repairs are carried out in a timely fashion. Emergency lighting is in place and working appropriately. Fire doors have been replaced or repaired and now meet requirements. The County Fire Officer has visited recently and his report states that the school's leaders are doing all they should to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Fire risk assessments and the monitoring of these assessments meet requirements as do the completion of fire logs. Students spoken with at the time of the progress monitoring inspection confirm that procedures are strictly adhered to and that regular checks and fire drills take place.

The April 2013 inspection found that many areas of the three buildings that form the school, boarding accommodation and grounds were in poor condition and did not meet the minimum standards. The provision of hot water, soap, toilet rolls and hand-drying facilities in bathrooms and toilets was erratic. Some bathrooms were in a poor state of repair. Flooring in corridors and stairwells was repaired with tape and was a potential tripping hazard. Heating was limited, so that corridors and bathrooms were cold. There was damaged plasterwork and peeling paint, for example, on the ceilings in boarders' kitchens and in the school building's toilets. Some window frames appeared to be rotten and let in the cold weather. Some areas of the home were not clean, for example, curtains, windows and communal areas. This had a negative impact on the homeliness of the environment and there were not adequate facilities or heating for students. In addition, these issues were not sufficiently reflected in the risk assessments so that, consequently, some risks were not identified or minimised by the administration team and Principal. Actions to ensure a safe environment for students to learn and board were judged to have been too slow.

This progress monitoring inspection has confirmed that there is now a good supply of toilet paper, soap and hand-drying facilities in all toilets and bathrooms throughout the school and boarding houses. It also confirms that all toilets and bathrooms are in a clean and tidy condition and in a good state of repair and decoration. Students spoken with confirmed that this has been the case since they returned from their summer break. They report that they are thrilled with the improvements. Expectations for the maintenance and monitoring of cleanliness and adequacy of supplies to toilets and bathrooms have been made explicit in the job descriptions of cleaning and maintenance staff. A system has been devised to ensure that these aspects are monitored closely.

Inspection evidence now confirms that the school's accommodation and facilities are

maintained to a sufficient standard to ensure the health, safety and welfare of students. This is because, for example, rotten window frames have been repaired or replaced and painted. Windows have been cleaned. Curtains are clean and hung correctly. Damp penetration has been addressed and plasterwork requiring attention has been renewed. Rooms have been painted so that the standard of decoration now meets requirements. Kitchens have been suitably refurbished as have many bathrooms. Others have had the necessary repairs carried out. All have been decorated and thoroughly cleaned to a suitable standard and are subject to regular and effective monitoring for standards of cleanliness and state of repair. The environment is now bright and homely. All flooring identified as inadequate has been suitably repaired or replaced. The inside temperature in all areas of the school and boarding is now appropriate. Inspectors found that there is a suitable and constant supply of hot and cold running water that is appropriately labelled. Risk assessments and the rolling programme of maintenance and repair, and maintenance logs, now include all of these aspects so that regular checks and any necessary work are carried out.

The April 2013 inspection found that systems for recording non-prescribed medication were not robust. This was because staff did not record the name of the medication given or the actual dosage. In addition, case notes did not fully reflect when they had visited a health care professional or the outcome of the visit. Consequently, this did not provide a sufficiently clear audit trail of the medication provided nor the actual care and support provided to students when they were unwell.

This progress monitoring inspection found that there have been improvements in the recording of some medication, for example, non-prescribed homely remedies. This record now clearly shows the name of the product, dosage and the name of the student for whom it is intended. Staff spoken with were knowledgeable about students' medication and when this should be administered. However, the recording of some prescribed medication is not robust. This is because the name and date of birth of the student is not always recorded on the medication administration sheet. In addition, records indicate that some medication is not being administered in line with pharmaceutical guidance. Consequently, records do not always provide suitable guidance for the safe administration of some medication. On some occasions there is no outcome recorded with regards to students' attendance at hospital for tests or the result of these tests. This does not provide a clear audit trail of the action taken by the school with regard to students' health. Therefore, this national minimum standard has not been fully met and notice of failure is reissued as a result of this progress monitoring visit. As a consequence of its failure to meet this national minimum standard, the school is also judged not to meet the independent school standard which requires the school to ensure arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of boarders and also have regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

Compliance with regulatory requirements and national minimum standards for boarding schools

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

Ensure arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of Paragraph 8

boarders and also have regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

The school must meet the following national minimum standards for boarding schools

Ensure the records specified in Appendix 2 (Boarding Schools National Minimum Standards) are maintained and monitored by the school and action taken as appropriate.

NMS 13.3

Inspection team

Joanne Harvey, Lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Christine Scully	Social Care Inspector
Denise Jolly	Social Care Inspector

Information about this school

- Jamea Al Kauthar is a Muslim boarding school for girls, founded in 1996, providing both an Islamic and a secular education. There are currently 397 girls on roll, all of whom board, with some coming from overseas.
- A few students are at an early stage of learning English as an additional language and none has a statement of special educational needs.
- The school is registered for students aged from 11 to 20 years with around half of students above compulsory school age. The ages of current students range from 11 to 23 years.
- The school occupies the former Royal Albert Hospital buildings, an historic and extensive site not far from the centre of Lancaster. It comprises the main building which houses the boarding facilities, a main hall, a library, two classrooms and administrative areas; a single storey building where students receive their secular education; and the two-storey madrassa building, where most of the Islamic curriculum is taught. There is a separate building in which students are taught information and communication technology. There are some additional buildings on site which are currently not in use.
- The school aims to instil religious and moral values and produce independent individuals who are sensitive to the needs of others. The school is owned by the Albadr Islamic Trust and the Chair of the Trustees is also the Principal.
- The school operates an admission policy of selection by ability. All students attend Islamic theology courses each morning, with the older students studying for a Masters-level equivalent qualification. Some students stay beyond the age of 20, in order to complete the six-year course. All students in Key Stages 3 and 4 follow secular courses in the afternoon as do many of sixth-form age or older.
- Sixth-form teaching is led and managed by staff from Preston Sixth-Form College with whom the school has partnership arrangements. A programme leader is based in the school most afternoons.

School details

Unique reference number	131355
Social care unique reference number	SC039275
Inspection number	429317
DfE registration number	888/6034
<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> <p>The inspection of boarding provision was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.</p>	
Type of school	Independent Muslim School
School status	Independent boarding school
Age range of pupils	Registered for 11–20 years
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	397
Number of part time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	397
Proprietor	Albadr Islamic Trust
Chair	Mr Fazl Wadee
Headteacher	Mr Fazl Wadee (Principal) Mrs Aneesa Soheil (Head of school) and Mrs Zeinab Bhikha (Head of boarding and the madrassa)
Date of previous school inspection	23 April 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	Not applicable
Annual fees (boarders)	£2,500
Telephone number	01524 389898
Fax number	01524 389333
Email address	admin@jamea.co.uk

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaining about inspections', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.



You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2013

