

PROTECT-INSPECTION



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Dr Stuart Wilson
Interim Principal
Al-Madinah School
Friar Street
Friar Gate
Derby
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Dear Dr Wilson

Special measures monitoring inspection of Al-Madinah School

Following my visit to your school with Zarina Connolly HMI on 29 November 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the inspection findings. Thank you for the help your leadership team gave in your absence during the inspection and for the time they made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school became subject to special measures following the inspection which took place in October 2013.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the vice Principal and the leadership team, three members of the governing body and two members of the school's sponsoring trust. Classrooms on both sites were visited. The sponsor's statement of action and the school's improvement plan were evaluated.

Context

The interim Principal is currently absent. The vice Principal is leading the school. Since the previous inspection 47 pupils have left the school and five members of staff have resigned.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

There are no signs of improvement in the school. Insufficient action has been taken to address the numerous failures in leadership and teaching. In addition, the uncertainty around governance and leadership has contributed to the school being less stable than it was at the time of the last inspection. This school remains in chaos.

The school is not improving because relationships between school leaders, at all levels, are destructive and deteriorating. As a result there are tensions between the governing body and senior leadership team. Members of the senior leadership team do not work together effectively; this has resulted in a lack of decisive leadership. The interim Principal is currently absent and governors have asked the willing, but inexperienced, vice Principal to lead the school during this period of absence. She does not, however, have the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the school makes rapid progress.

The school's plans are not good enough; they lack clear targets and actions. Teaching staff are not given clear messages about what has to be done. School leaders are not holding teachers to account for the quality of teaching, which remains inadequate and, more worryingly, is not showing any signs of improving.

Governors have worked hard to ensure that pupils are now safe. They do not monitor the work of senior leaders effectively as they are too involved in the day-to-day running of the school. Governors do not have the necessary understanding, experience or expertise to make decisions about how the school should operate.

The trustees have written a statement of action but this does not indicate how the school will tackle the weaknesses identified in the inspection. As a result the trustees have not communicated a clear strategy which will ensure that the quality of leadership and teaching improves.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The sponsor's statement of action is not fit for purpose

The school's improvement plan is not fit for purpose

Having considered all the evidence I strongly recommend that the school does not seek to appoint NQTs.

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I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, and as below. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Norrie
Her Majesty's Inspector