

La Petite Ecole Bilingue

90 Oxford Gardens, London, W10 5UW

Inspection dates

22 November 2013

Context of the inspection

- The inspection was undertaken at the request of the Department of Education, registration authority for independent schools, in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan, to check if independent school regulations are met in the following areas: pupils' welfare and safety, suitability of staff, premises and accommodation and the complaints procedures.
- The school opened in September 2012. The school's first full inspection was in June 2013. Leadership and management were judged inadequate because the proprietor failed to ensure that regulations were met. Pupils' welfare, health and safety were judged as inadequate because too many regulations were not met, in particular the required checks were not undertaken on staff and others associated with the school and the school's single central register of staff checks was not completed correctly.
- Following the inspection the school submitted an action plan in July 2013 to address the shortcomings; this was evaluated as satisfactory in most areas, subject to inspection.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

The last inspection in June 2013 stated that visitors to the domestic accommodation of the school were not fully supervised. This has been rectified. A visitors' signing-in book and name badges are used. A security key pad has been installed on the door between the residential part of the house and the classrooms to provide a security barrier between the domestic and school premises.

The inspection of June 2013 found deficiencies in the safeguarding policy. The policy still has deficiencies and it is not implemented effectively. Training for child protection is up to date for most staff but not for the new headteacher who has not received up-to-date training to fulfil her role as the designated child protection officer. The child protection policy does not meet regulations because it does not ensure the school's recruitment procedures are implemented. The recruitment policy does not state that staff will not be employed until all the required checks have been made. The school has the required range of policies including those for anti-bullying, missing child, use of photographic devices; however, a signed checklist to confirm that each member of staff has read and understood these documents is not maintained. As a result a significant minority of staff are not up to date with the expected policy and practice.

The June 2013 inspection found that the first aid policy did not cover a full range of emergency situations. In response to the inspection findings, the first aid policy has been re-written. It does not meet regulations because it is not implemented effectively. It is not implemented adequately in the school's preparation for hygiene procedures in the case of spillage of blood or body fluid. First aid boxes are not organised with the required amount

of equipment. They are not regularly checked or replenished.

During the present inspection, it was found that the school's health and safety policy is not implemented effectively. The school does not demonstrate compliance with regulations pertaining to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Documentation to show a current gas certificate safety check was not available. An annual check of the safety of all electrical appliances was not available. Fire marshal training has been completed for a nominated member of staff.

The inspection of June 2013 found that the school did not make and record all the required checks on staff. This present inspection found that regulations are still not being met. The new headteacher has audited staffing records to ascertain missing documentation. This confirms failings in the procedures for the recruitment of staff. Criminal record checks are not undertaken for all staff. Not all the required checks, including references or the checks on a person's suitability to work with children and their right to work in the United Kingdom, are completed as required. The single central register of staff checks does not provide a complete record of the required checks for teaching staff or for domestic staff living at the school's address.

The inspection in June identified failings in the provision of medical accommodation and the suitability of the toilet facilities. Some aspects have been addressed but the regulations are not met. A dedicated room has been now been provided for the medical treatment of pupils but there is no washing facility. A low homemade screen to provide privacy is unstable. Toilets for boys and girls are now separate, the boys' toilets meet requirements but the girls' toilets do not. The girls' toilet area under the stairs is too narrow and dark, access to the sink is restricted, and the curtain arrangement across each cubicle does not ensure privacy; cubicles are too visible from the main corridor.

The inspection of June 2013 found that drinking water was not readily available or labelled as such. Drinking water is now readily available in each classroom, cold water supplies are suitable for drinking and they are labelled as such.

Previously failed regulations which related to information for parents and carers and the complaints procedure have been addressed satisfactorily.

The findings of this visit were discussed by the inspector with the proprietor, headteacher and a member of the parents' forum.

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

<p>Ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – family members and domestic staff living in domestic accommodation at the school's address are properly checked and details of the checks are entered onto the single central register – the child protection policy is improved by ensuring that it contains a clear outline of the school's recruitment procedures and the recording 	<p>Paragraph 7</p>
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<p>of the results of those checks in the single central register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the designated person receives the required training. 	
Ensure that there is a compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.	Paragraph 13
Ensure that the first-aid policy includes guidance on how to deal with different first-aid situations, including the handling of bodily fluids and that this is implemented.	Paragraph 14
Ensure it can be verified that all the required security checks on staff have been undertaken.	Paragraph 19(2)(a)
Ensure that all the appropriate checks on staff have been completed to confirm identity, medical fitness and, where appropriate, qualifications and the right to work in the United Kingdom.	Paragraph 19(2)(b)
Ensure that all staff, where appropriate, have an enhanced criminal record check.	Paragraph 19(2)(c)
Ensure that it can be verified that all the required security checks on foreign nationals have been undertaken.	Paragraph 19(2)(d)
Ensure that, in future, the checks specified in 19(2)(b) are completed before a person's appointment.	Paragraph 19(3)
Ensure that, in future, the single central register shows that all checks have been made and that the entries are signed and dated.	Paragraph 22(3)
Ensure that the toilets and washing facilities provided are suitable for pupils.	Paragraph 23A(1)(a)
Provide accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils, which includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility.	Paragraph 23B(1)(b)

Inspection team

Ann Debono

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- The school opened in September 2012. It is located in a large house in West London. It is a bilingual school, teaching English and French. The proprietor runs three other schools and a nursery, one of which is in Paris.
- The school is registered for 70 boys and girls aged from three to eleven years. The present number on roll is 47. There are 22 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The ages of the current pupils are three to seven years.
- None of the pupils has a statement of special educational needs and none is disabled.
- About half of the pupils are native English speakers and half are French speakers, but a large minority are bilingual when they come to school. There are also a small number of pupils with other native languages such as Russian.
- The school follows the English Early Years Foundation Stage programme.
- The school uses facilities outside school. This includes the local park for recreation, the library and the community centre for art and music.
- There has been a high turnover of teaching staff during the first year of the school's opening.
- There have been two headteachers; the present headteacher was only recently appointed.
- The school aims to 'provide a bilingual education in a warm, homely and supportive environment where an exciting, broad and varied curriculum offers an intellectually challenging learning experience that is enriched through the arts, music and sport'.

School details

Unique reference number	138599
Inspection number	420265
DfE registration number	207/6001
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	Bilingual primary school
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	3–7 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	47
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Anne Henderson-Stewart
Headteacher	Valerie Gombert-Pfister
Date of previous school inspection	20–21 June 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£8,550
Telephone number	020 8960 2725
Email address	lpebl.admission@gmail.com

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