

# International Community School

4 York Terrace East, Regents Park, London, NW1 4PT

## Inspection dates

29 April–1 May 2014

## Context of the inspection

In December 2013, an emergency integrated inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE). The focus of this inspection was to report on the school's compliance with all the standards for independent schools referenced in Part 3, welfare, health and safety of pupils and Part 4, suitability of proprietors and staff and supply staff. In particular, inspectors were asked to consider the arrangements made for keeping pupils safe in school, in the boarding house and when on school trips.

The emergency inspection found failings in Part 3 of the standards and also failings in the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

A notice was issued to the school on 14 January and an action plan to address the issues raised was requested no later than 14 February.

The action plan was evaluated on 19 February 2014. It required improvement and was rejected by the DfE on 10 March 2014. A revised action plan was presented on 24 April 2014.

The DfE commissioned a full integrated inspection covering all standards. This was undertaken between 30 April to 12 May 2014. The inspectors were requested to assess the school's implementation of its revised action plan to address the failings with respect to the education standards and national minimum standards found at the emergency inspection in December 2013.

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

## Regulations not met

The revised action plan of 24 April 2014 meets the requirements of the advice and guidance provided by the DfE in November 2013. The points raised in the action plan evaluation of 19 February 2014 are met. All failures are addressed clearly in a step-by-step process. Details are provided to judge whether appropriate action is taken to address the shortfalls. There is better information on the expected impact for children and young people. For example in evaluating the impact of e-safety strategies on secondary-aged pupils. The strategies identified to monitor progress are clear, as are the tools to be used, for example checklists and outside contractors' inspections. An objective evaluation of the effectiveness of each action is identified.

Despite some effective action to address the standards in part 3, a number of issues

relating to safeguarding pupils arose during the inspection. As a consequence, the school failed to meet the requirements of paragraphs 7, 11, 15 in Part 3 and paragraph 23C in Part 5 of the independent school regulations, as detailed below.

The school has not defined the roles within the safeguarding team for monitoring the impact of safeguarding policies. This is leading to slippage in how well policies and procedures are implemented. There is a weak policy covering the dual use of the premises at 4 York Terrace East. The policy places too much emphasis on the management of the international students house (ISH) to regulate the residents' behaviour without a contribution in terms of clear guidance from the school. There is a need to share responsibility for behaviour with the residents themselves. The policy has not been reviewed and is not monitored. The leaders of the primary school do not take sufficient responsibility for implementing this policy. The proprietors are aware of the issues with dual use of the premises and agree that they should ensure they have greater accountability to implement the policy.

While there is a policy, for the dual use of the premises, there are no risk assessments. Inspectors observed and recorded a significant number of risks during the two tours of the school accompanied by the head of the primary school. The leaders of the primary school have a lax attitude to these risks even though the risks to pupils were immediate. During the inspection, inspectors took swift action to recommend a number of measures to ensure the safety and well-being of the pupils. Although, the staff complied fully with the inspectors' recommendations their understanding of the issues demonstrated that safeguarding is not yet embedded at the school.

The supervision levels at playtime in the primary school are not adequate. Two adults supervised 35 children during the playtime observed. Furthermore, 17 of these pupils were in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and included nine nursery children. The inspectors' concern is that the pupils and the staff are not adequately protected from the ISH residents and their guests. This is because their rooms overlook the playground and residents can immediately access the playground. This means the risk of pupils observing inappropriate behaviour or language coming from students' rooms is high.

Good progress has been made in meeting the national minimum standards for boarding schools. The inspection of December 2013 found numerous weaknesses. These include shortfalls in the premises, in fire precautions, in the safeguarding of pupils, in staffing levels and in the safe recruitment of staff. The school's revised action plan outlines a wide range of appropriate amendments to policies and practical strategies to address these weaknesses. As a result of the school's effective implementation of the plan, the standards are now met in full.

### **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 made to safeguard and promote the welfare of

Paragraph 7

pupils at the school and ensure these arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Ensure there is a written policy which complies with relevant health and safety laws and that it is implemented. Paragraph 11

Ensure school staff at 4 York Terrace are deployed in such a way as to ensure the proper supervision of pupils. Paragraph 15

Ensure that the school's accommodation and facilities are maintained to a sufficient standard to ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils, as far as is reasonably practical. Paragraph 23C

## Inspection team

Jonathan Palk, Lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Raymond Prentice	Additional Inspector
Usman Mapara	Additional Inspector
Sharon Lewis	Social Care Inspector

## Information about this school

- The International Community School opened in 1979 and is a non-selective school offering education for pupils aged three to 18. It is situated on two sites in central London for primary and secondary provision respectively. There are currently 245 pupils on roll, including 16 children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The primary school shares its space with a self-funding organisation called International Students House. It provides residential accommodation for British and overseas students aged over 18.
- A high proportion of pupils speak English as an additional language. Pupils, many of whom are foreign nationals resident in London, follow a curriculum based around the International Baccalaureate. An important aspect of the school's ethos is the off-site learning. This programme aims to support pupils' learning through local and international trips.
- The proportion of students with special educational needs and those with disabilities supported through school action is typical of the majority of schools nationally. The proportion supported through school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is above average. Seven pupils have a statement of special educational needs. These are for behavioural and communication needs associated with autism.
- The school offers boarding accommodation for up to 12 students. At the time of the inspection, four students were residing at the school. The boarding accommodation is provided off the campus in a large town house. The boarding provision is due to close at the end of June 2014.
- The last inspection of the school and boarding was carried out between 9 and 10 December 2013. It was an emergency inspection at the request of the Department for Education.
- The two proprietors and a Director of Education constitute the governing body of the school.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	101171
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	SC474187
<b>Inspection number</b>	447129
<b>DfE registration number</b>	213/6304
<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>	
<b>Type of school</b>	Independent all-age school
<b>School status</b>	Independent boarding school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–18
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	248
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	4
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr B A Toettcher and Mrs E A Toettcher
<b>Head of school</b>	Stuart Pollard (Primary) Rose Threlfall (Secondary)
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	29 November 2014
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£15,850–£21,250
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	Upon application
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7935 1206
<b>Email address</b>	secondary@ics.uk.net

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