

# Birmingham Muslim School

Bisley Works, Golden Hillock Road, Birmingham, B11 2PZ

## Inspection date

21 May 2014

## Reason for inspection

This emergency inspection was a result of a concern about the school being brought to the attention of the Department for Education (DfE), which requested a visit with a particular focus on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils (Standard 2), the welfare, health and safety of pupils including safeguarding procedures (Standard 3), the suitability of staff (Standard 4), premises (Standard 5) and the provision of information for parents, carers and others (Standard 6) within the inspection. The inspector also scrutinised the way in which complaints were handled (Standard 7). The inspection was conducted without notice.

## Conclusions

The school's provision fails to meet the independent school standards. There are some inadequate security arrangements at the school.

Pupils said they enjoyed school. Key Stage 2 pupils said they felt safe; Key Stage 1 pupils said they did not always feel safe. This appears to be connected with some difficult behaviour in school and some low-level bullying, rather than being related to any one specific incident.

The child protection policy does not make clear who is the designated child protection officer for the school. While all the staff have undertaken basic level training, only the headteacher is trained for this important role and there is no-one who could deputise for her should she be absent. Staff lack understanding of the current safeguarding guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Maintenance of child protection records falls short of the required standards. Procedures for reporting concerns are contrary to current guidance and to the school's policy.

The school's behaviour policy is not implemented effectively. There are no records of sanctions for misbehaviour. The anti-bullying policy was adopted in March 2010 but it is not specific to this school. No bullying log is maintained as is stipulated in the policy. The school's health and safety policy was also taken from another school and has not been sufficiently tailored to needs of this school. Staff have not fully considered all of the potential risks for pupils when on the school site or when undertaking educational visits. Risk assessments are of poor quality. They are sometimes not completed at all for educational visits. No routine risk assessments have been completed since April 2013. Leaders lack knowledge of relevant health and safety laws to which they should adhere.

The school cannot provide evidence of having sufficient regard for fire safety. Fire drills supposedly take place termly, but the log lacks detail and pupils state that they cannot remember having one. The fire policy does not give staff enough detail to follow in the event of a fire. The school has not fully considered the potential fire hazard of storing vast amounts of clothing in the disused warehouse underneath the school. The last fire risk

assessment undertaken by the school was in November 2012.

Both the admission register and the attendance registers are non-compliant. The admission register does not contain all of the required details and missing information has not been followed up adequately. The school does not have proof of identity for all children. School leaders are not carefully checking the attendance registers, identifying any gaps in attendance and querying the reasons. They have not followed up any non-attendance rigorously. Pupils' non-attendance is not recorded accurately in the register and the school cannot account for all pupils who do not attend. There is no evidence of any first-day calling to check on pupils' whereabouts if they have not arrived at school. Absenteeism is high, particularly in Year 3. The reasons for this have not been investigated by the school. The school also has ineffective procedures for improving punctuality, which is also poor.

The single central register to record information on the suitability of staff to work with children is complete and contains all of the required information. All necessary checks on staff have been carried out.

Toilet and washing facilities are unsuitable. There is no toilet paper in the toilets and pupils say they are given too little paper for their hygiene requirements. They are not given paper towels to dry their hands or any other form of hand dryer. The standard of cleanliness at the school falls below what is expected and is not being carefully enough monitored. Routine maintenance is poor.

Some of the information for parents, carers and others is out of date, particularly in notifying them of pupils' academic performance and the number of complaints the school has received in the preceding school year. The data currently shared in the prospectus relates to 2007. There is no written record of complaints.

Generally, across the school, systems for recording are inadequate. Policies are weak because: they are not tailored to the school; they do not inform current practice; they are not sufficiently understood by staff or pupils and they are not easily available. Systems for administration are weak because they are unwieldy and much is out of date as they are poorly maintained. Documentation and records lack necessary detail. Trustees do not have sufficient knowledge of independent school regulations and are not adequately monitoring the school and holding it sufficiently to account for the quality of teaching; data or information on the school's performance; the use of performance management and what is being done to reward good teachers and tackle underperformance.

The inspector found that, since the last inspection in July 2013, standards had slipped. This is no longer an adequate school. It is now an inadequate school. This is because pupils' behaviour and safety is inadequate and leadership and management are inadequate. Overall, there were 12 unmet regulations, with some failed regulations in all but one of the standards which were considered. In respect of the original concern that was raised, the regulatory requirements are not met.

### **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.**

- Make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and ensure these arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. paragraph 7
- Effectively implement the written policy to promote good behaviour amongst pupils and ensure that sanctions adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving are appropriate, target the perpetrators and are applied consistently. paragraph 9
- Ensure there is an effective anti-bullying strategy in place and implement it effectively, including the recording of any bullying incidents and raising pupils awareness of the types of bullying. paragraph 10
- Ensure that the written health and safety policy complies with relevant health and safety laws and that it is being implemented rigorously by all members of staff, particularly in respect of managing risk associated with off-site visits and in respect of security on the premises. paragraph 11
- Ensure there is compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and review this regularly by ensuring that there is a current fire risk policy in place, that risk associated with storing large amounts of clothing underneath the school has been considered and that all fire safety logs are maintained, including sufficient detail in the fire evacuation logs. paragraph 13
- Follow the school's written policy on first aid by meticulously logging any accidents or injuries. paragraph 14
- Keep a record of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour. paragraph 16
- Ensure that the admission register contains all of the relevant information on pupils, giving particular attention to their proof of identity, previous school, and destination upon leaving. Ensure that attendance registers are completed in line with regulations. Follow up absences more rigorously, ensuring reasons for absence are completed and fixed-term exclusions are recorded. paragraph 17
- Ensure that suitable and hygienic toilet and washing facilities are provided for pupils. paragraph 23A(1)(a)
- 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 and to include replacing any broken fittings and improving the state of cleanliness and hygiene everywhere in school. paragraph 23C
- Provide up-to-date particulars on pupils' academic performance and the number of complaints the school has received in the previous academic year for parents, carers and others. paragraph 24(1)(b)
- Ensure that the school follows the required complaints procedure and keeps a written record of complaints. paragraph 25(j)

## Inspection team

Jane Melbourne, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- Birmingham Muslim School is an independent day school that provides full-time education for boys and girls aged from 4 to 11 years from families within and beyond the Muslim community in the Small Heath area of Birmingham.
- The school was established in 2001 in a former industrial unit. Until last year, the school was privately owned by the proprietor. The school is now run by the Albayan Education Foundation Limited, which is a registered charity. The headteacher and the former proprietor are trustees of the charity along with a parent and a member of the local community.
- Pupils and staff come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, although the large majority of pupils are Somalian.
- A very large number of pupils, particularly in the Early Years Foundation Stage, are at the early stages of learning to speak English.
- There are no pupils attending the school who have a disability or significant special educational needs.
- The school is registered for 120 pupils. There are currently 106 pupils on roll, taught in six classes. There is one class per year group from Reception to Year 4. Years 5 and 6 are taught in the same class. Of the 14 pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, none are in receipt of the government's entitlement to nursery education.
- The school was last inspected by Ofsted in July 2013 when the quality of education was judged to be adequate and at that time it was found to be meeting all of the independent school regulations.
- A serious incident that allegedly occurred at the school since the previous education inspection has been investigated by the appropriate authorities and is now closed. Ofsted does not have the power to investigate incidents of this kind. The welfare provision in the school was evaluated against the regulations that are in place and inspection judgements are based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	133521
<b>Inspection number</b>	445772
<b>DfE registration number</b>	330/6102
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.	
<b>Type of school</b>	Muslim
<b>School status</b>	Independent School
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	106
<b>Proprietor</b>	The Albayan Educational Foundation Ltd
<b>Chair</b>	Ghoma Abdrabba
<b>Headteacher</b>	Aisha Abdrabba
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	9-11 July 2013
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£1,782
<b>Telephone number</b>	0121 7668129
<b>Fax number</b>	N/A
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