

EF International Academy Torbay

EF House, Castle Road, Torquay, TQ1 3BG

Inspection dates

2 July 2014

Context of the inspection

This inspection was undertaken at the request of the registration authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the academy has made in implementing its action plan. The action plan was accepted on 8 May 2014. This is the first visit to the academy to follow up its progress. Since the last inspection, the academy has applied to the Department for Education to provide lodgings (long stay) and boarding provision for its students. At the time of this inspection, the academy had not received a reply about their application. When the inspector visited the academy, it was closed for the summer holiday. The inspection visit was unannounced.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

At the last inspection on 14 January 2014, the academy was in breach of regulations relating to the welfare, health and safety of students, and ensuring the suitability of staff to work with young people. Some adults working directly with students had not undergone a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, notably staff employed in the residences and some host families. Not all staff had received safeguarding training; again, these were staff employed in the residences and some host families.

The academy has implemented its action plan in full. The previously identified shortcomings which may have compromised the welfare, health and safety of students, and failed to ensure the suitability of staff to work with young people, have now been resolved. Safeguarding training has been provided for all adults connected with the academy who come into contact with students.

The inspector spoke with senior staff about safeguarding procedures, examined the academy's policies on child protection and scrutinised the checks made on relevant adults recorded in the single central register. The inspector also scrutinised the pre-employment checks and vetting procedures made by the academy.

The academy's single central register shows that all adults on the academy's payroll have had their DBS checks completed, as have all staff employed in the residences and all members of the host families aged over 16 years.

Vetting procedures for all adults, including pre-employment checks, are now thorough and protect young people well. Practice now meets the regulations and the national minimum standards for host family provision.

All school and residential staff have completed appropriate safeguarding training. The

academy has provided three safeguarding training days for host families and a further two are planned before September 2014. About half of the current host families have completed this training. Some of the lead adults in host families have already undertaken safeguarding training as part of their employment elsewhere, in positions such as social worker or schoolteacher. The academy intends that, as a minimum, if the lead adult in a host family fails to complete appropriate safeguarding training, that students will no longer be placed with them.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements.

Inspection team

Steffi Penny, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- EF International Academy Torbay is located in the central area of Torquay. The premises consist of a large former villa and a newly constructed purpose-built building which occupy the same site. The academy provides exclusively for international students who wish to gain the International GCSE, A level and International Baccalaureate accreditation.
- There are currently 277 students on roll aged from 14 to 19 years and these are of mixed gender.
- The academy has no particular religious affiliation and it accepts students from a wide range of religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds. The academy also provides support in English, though most students are already proficient in the language. No students have a statement of special educational needs.
- Courses are taught in English. The academy aims to prepare students to apply successfully to courses in higher education within the United Kingdom or in other countries.
- The academy was last inspected on 14 January 2014.

School details

Unique reference number	136738
Inspection number	447127
DfE registration number	880/6006
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	Independent academy
School status	Secondary day school for international students
Age range of pupils	14–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	277
Number of boarders on roll	277
Proprietor	EF International Academy Ltd.
Chair	Anna Ireland
Headteacher	Trevor Spence
Date of previous school inspection	14 January 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£22,050
Annual fees (boarders)	£22,050
Telephone number	01803 202932
Email address	EFIA.Torbay@ef.com

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