

Mazahirul Uloom School

241–243 Mile End Road, London, E1 4AA

Inspection dates

16–17 October 2014

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards identified

Reason for the inspection

- The inspection was undertaken by Ofsted at the request of the Department for Education. Inspectors were asked to report on the school's compliance with all the standards for independent schools referenced in: Part 1, Quality of Education; Part 2, Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; Part 3, Welfare, health and safety of pupils; and Part 4, Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors.
- The inspection was conducted without notice.

Main findings

- The school's curriculum is too narrow. Too much of the curriculum focuses solely on Islamic themes, and students have very few opportunities to link with those from different backgrounds in their local community. Consequently, students do not have a good enough understanding of faiths and cultures different from their own. Several students told an inspector that it would be wrong to learn about other religions. Students are not being prepared for life in a diverse British society.
- The curriculum does not provide enough opportunities for students to develop their creativity. They have no lessons in drama, music, or art. Opportunities for creativity in other subjects are too limited. There are no plans to show how students' skills will be developed in physical education as they move through the school.
- The curriculum does not promote students' understanding of the fundamental British rule of law. When discussing Sharia law and English law, they were unable to tell inspectors which laws they should follow, and which were more important.
- The school does not actively promote principles that encourage students to have respect for those with different backgrounds. For example, students presented a narrow view of the role of females in society. Some students told inspectors that 'women stay at home and clean and look after the children. They cook and pray and wait for us to come back in from school and help with homework.' The Principal told inspectors that the school's curriculum does not currently cover learning about those of different sexual orientations.
- School leaders do not do enough to ensure that students are protected from partisan political views. No systems are in place to check the suitability of external speakers who come to the school. Furthermore, leaders do not check work in students' books to ensure that the curriculum is being implemented as it is intended.
- Teaching does not enable students to make the progress they should do in different subjects, with the exception of teaching in mathematics. Teachers do not check students' progress to ensure that lessons are pitched at the right level. As a result, students, particularly the most able, are not challenged well enough by their teachers in lessons.
- Leaders and teachers do not have a suitable system to compare students' performance against national norms. This is because the accuracy of teachers' assessments is not checked by anybody, either inside the school or externally.
- The school's provision for students with special educational needs is weak. School leaders have failed to devise an up-to-date individual education plan for a student with special educational

needs. This is listed as a requirement in the student's statement of special educational needs.

- Insufficient arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of students. A number of students leave the school at times other than the usual start and end points. The school does not know where many of these students go to, or keep a record of this, or make a record of liaisons with the local authority to ensure that the child is safe. The school's safeguarding and child protection policies do not have reference to the latest statutory guidance from the Department for Education.
- The school's procedures to recruit staff are not rigorous enough. This means that students are unsafe. The school has failed to carry out suitable background checks on members of staff who have lived or worked overseas, failed to take up suitable references from previous employers, not checked whether teachers have received prohibition orders, or recorded this on the single central record.
- The proprietors have failed to ensure effective implementation of the school's health and safety policy. For example, inspectors found a door to a kitchen unlocked, with a sharp knife left on a worktop. The entrance to the school from the front entrance, and through the mosque, is insecure. Inspectors also found a staff bedroom on a corridor next to classrooms. The room was locked, but the Principal was unable to tell inspectors who slept in the room. School leaders failed to provide risk assessments to show how they help to keep children safe, both within the school and when out on trips.
- Staff are not suitably trained to carry out medical first aid on students. This is because they have not received appropriate training within the last three years.
- The premises are not well maintained throughout the school. For example, the washing area in the basement is unclean and poorly maintained. It has cracked and missing tiles, unclean grouting between tiles, and an unhygienic and dirty bin.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended, and associated requirements

Part 1: The quality of education provided

- The proprietors should ensure that there is a curriculum policy set out in writing which is supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, and that the curriculum is implemented effectively (paragraph 2(1)).
- The proprietors should ensure that the curriculum gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education (paragraph 2(2)(a)).
- The proprietors should ensure that the subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of pupils, including those with a statement of special educational needs (paragraph 2(2)(b)).
- The proprietors should ensure that where a pupil has a statement of special educational needs, education is provided which fulfils its requirements (paragraph 2(2)(e)).
- The proprietors should ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils' personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos (paragraph 2(2)(f)).
- The proprietors should ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress (paragraph 2(2)(i)).
- The proprietors should ensure that teaching:
 - fosters in pupils the application of intellectual, physical or creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves
 - involves well-planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time
 - shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and

ensure that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons

- demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly, and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress (paragraph 3, 3(b), 3(c), 3(d) and 3(g)).
- The proprietors should ensure that there is a framework in place by which pupils' performance can be evaluated accurately by reference to either the school's own aims, as provided to parents, and/or by national norms (paragraph 4).

Part 2: Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- Comply with the standard about pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (paragraph 5).
- Actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs (paragraph 5(a)).
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which:
 - enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
 - encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated, and to society more widely
 - enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England
 - further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions, by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures
 - encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010
 - encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic process, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England (paragraph 5(b)(ii) to 5(b)(vii)).
- Preclude the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school (paragraph 5(c)).
- Take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils in the promotion at the school, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the school or elsewhere, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views (paragraph 5(d) and 5(d)(iii)).

Part 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The proprietors must ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school, and that the arrangements have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7, 7(a) and 7(b)).
- The proprietors must ensure that a written policy on compliance with the relevant health and safety laws is drawn up and effectively implemented (paragraph 11).
- The proprietors must ensure that a written policy on first aid is drawn up and implemented (paragraph 14).

Part 4: Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- The proprietor must carry out appropriate checks to confirm in respect of each person, medical fitness, and in the case of any person for whom, by reason of that person living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining such a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person's suitability to work in a school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 19(2), 19(2)(b), 19(2)(ii), and 19(2)(d)).

- The proprietors must ensure that the single central register shows that:
 - a check was made to establish whether each member of staff appointed on, or after, 1 May 2007 is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, or is subject to any direction made under section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction
 - checks were made in the case of any person for whom, living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person's suitability to work in a school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the secretary of State
 - and the date on which such check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraph 22(1), 22(3) and 22(3)(e)).

Part 5: Premises of and accommodation at the school

- The proprietor must ensure that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured (paragraph 23C).

Inspection team

Jeremy Spencer, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Ann Debono

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- This is an Islamic boys' secondary school. The school is located in premises above the Mazahirul Uloom Mosque.
- The school admits students in Year 7 through to Year 11.
- The number of students with a statement of special educational needs is minimal.
- The school has a number of aims, including 'to promote a culture of achievement', 'to prepare students for adult Muslim life', and 'to prepare students who can live by the Islamic code of life and participate fully in British society without compromising their faith'.

School details

Unique reference number	133307
Inspection number	453163
DfE registration number	211/6391

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 inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Muslim secondary school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11–16
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	102
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Mazahirul Uloom London
Chair	Jamshed Ali
Headteacher	Imdadur Rahman Al-Madani
Date of previous school inspection	18 March 2013 (Bridge School Inspectorate)
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,700
Telephone number	020 7702 8533
Email address	info@mul.org.uk

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaining about inspections', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.



You can use Parent View to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school. Ofsted will use the information parents and carers provide when deciding which schools to inspect and when.

You can also use Parent View to find out what other parents and carers think about schools in England. You can visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk, or look for the link on the main Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2014

