

Instituto Espanol Cañada Blanch

317 Portobello Road, London, W10 5SY

Inspection dates 26 November 2014

Overall outcome **Independent school standards not met**

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 school has made in implementing its action plan.
- The school was last inspected on 26–28 November 2013, when its overall effectiveness was judged to be good. Several regulations were not met, however. These related to the provision of showers, facilities for medical examination and care of sick pupils, and maintenance of the accommodation.
- The Department for Education asked the school to submit an action plan detailing the steps it planned to take in order to rectify these issues. The action plan was evaluated on 24 June 2014 and found to be satisfactory, subject to its implementation which was required to be checked.
- The purpose of this inspection was to assess the school's progress towards implementation of the action plan. The inspector was also asked to check that the school's safeguarding policies and procedures comply with the Independent School Standards.

Main findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The Department for Education asked inspectors to consider whether the school continued to meet the Independent School Standards relating to the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Inspectors found that several regulations are not met. These relate to arrangements for the safeguarding of pupils, compliance with regulations regarding fire safety, and requirements relating to the recording of admissions to the school.
- The school has a policy in place relating to the safeguarding of pupils, but it is not clear whether this has been reviewed annually, as required. The designated safeguarding lead within the school is named in the policy, but has not received any related training. Currently, no member of staff has been trained to fulfil this role. This means that victims or potential victims of abuse may not be identified. Concerns may not be acted on appropriately. Records show that all members of staff receive regular updates to their child protection training from the Spanish ministry.
- School leaders were not aware of the Secretary of State's most recent guidance, *Keeping children safe in education*, published in April 2014. This guidance is not referenced in the school's policy, and staff members have not read Part One of the guidance, as required.
- The school is aware of the procedures to follow if any allegations are made against a member of staff. It works closely with the local authority designated officer to ensure that any concerns are dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner.
- The school has robust policies regarding the management of behaviour and bullying, which are applied consistently by staff. As a result, students behave well, and treat each other with respect. They get on well together and say that 'los profesores nos ayudan' (the teachers help us).
- Health and safety matters are taken seriously and the first aid arrangements are satisfactory. All

staff receive regular training in both health and safety and first aid.

- The school has a written fire safety policy. Equipment, such as fire extinguishers, is serviced regularly, and records kept of weekly fire alarm tests. Fire exits are clearly marked, and procedures displayed in all areas of the school in both English and Spanish. Termly fire drills are held, but these are not recorded in the appropriate way. There were no fire risk assessments available at the time of the inspection, despite these being required by the school policy.
- The school's admission register is kept online. All relevant information is held, except for that regarding students' previous schools, which is kept elsewhere. Printed copies of the admission register are not kept as required by the regulations.

Premises and accommodation

- The school's action plan, accepted by the Department for Education in June 2014, details plans to refurbish parts of the building in response to the shortfalls found at the last inspection. Architects' plans are now completed, showing proposed refurbishments to toilet and washing areas, new showers and changing facilities, and a new area for the medical treatment and care of sick students. The local authority has agreed to these changes to the building, and the Spanish government has allocated sufficient funds. However, this has been a drawn-out process, and work was not completed by the end of August 2014 as planned. The headteacher now expects work to begin in January 2015. Therefore, the accommodation currently provided for these purposes remains inadequate.
- Toilet and washing areas are poorly maintained. In many cases, there is no soap or facility for drying hands. Most of the cubicles have missing locks. Many taps are broken or do not work, and there is no hot water. Students say they do not like the toilet facilities, and that they are often dirty. The school has not undertaken any remedial works to improve matters whilst the building works are awaiting completion.
- Classrooms are generally bright and airy, and shared areas such as corridors are clear of obstructions. The interior and exterior of the building are well lit, enabling students, staff and visitors to find their way around the complex safely and easily.
- Concerns regarding the uneven surface in the playground, identified at the time of the last inspection, have not been addressed.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school (paragraphs 7, 7(a)).
- Ensure that such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7(b)).
- Ensure that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is complied with (paragraph 13).
- Ensure that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (paragraph 17).
- Ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for the sole use of pupils (paragraphs 23A(1), 23A(1)(a))
- Ensure that suitable changing accommodation and showers are provided for pupils aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education (paragraph 23A(1)(c)).
- Ensure that suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils, including accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils (paragraph 23B(1), 23B(1)(a))

- Ensure that suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils, including 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)).
- 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).
- Ensure that toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water (paragraphs 23F(1), 23F(1)(b)).

Inspection team

Gaynor Roberts, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Chris Campbell

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Vicente Cañada Blanch Spanish School is a mixed independent day school which is owned by the Spanish government and managed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Spain. The school follows the Spanish Education curriculum.
- The school is housed in a former Dominican convent in Kensington, London and caters for pupils aged from five to 19 years. There are currently 520 pupils on roll.
- Pupils are either bilingual in English and Spanish, multilingual or at various stages of learning English or Spanish as an additional language. The proportions leaving and entering the school at times other than at the start of the academic year are high.
- There are no pupils with disabilities or special educational needs.
- The aims of the school are to provide pupils with a deep understanding of both Spanish and British culture, within a curriculum which ensures pupils 'develop linguistic competence in Spanish and in English so as to enable their complete integration as citizens in the United Kingdom and in Spain'.
- The school is also inspected annually by the Spanish inspectorate.

School details

Unique reference number	100532
Inspection number	454807
DfE registration number	207/6305

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	All-age day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	5–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	520
Of which, number of pupils in the sixth form	67
Number of part time pupils	0
Proprietor	Spanish government
Chair	Dr M Isabel Martínez López
Director	Dr M Isabel Martínez López
Date of previous school inspection	26–28 November 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	Spanish nationals £315 and non-Spanish nationals £3,125 - £3,875
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