

Barbara Speake Stage School

East Acton Lane, East Acton, London, W3 7EG

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 inspected under section 162A of the Education Act on 25-27 June 2013, when it was judged to be adequate overall but did not meet one of the independent school standards.
- The school submitted proposals to meet this standard on 9 September 2013. The Department for Education (DfE) accepted the school's proposals on 20 September 2013.
- An unannounced emergency inspection was made on 4 July 2014 at the request of the DfE to check the school's compliance with Parts 3 (Welfare, health and safety of pupils) and 5 (Premises and accommodation) of the independent school standards. The school did not meet four of the independent school standards.
- The DfE issued a Notice on 31 July 2014 requiring the school to complete a statutory action plan.
- The school submitted an action plan to the DfE on 3 September 2014. The action plan was accepted on 2 October 2014 but required improvement.
- This is the first monitoring inspection since the emergency inspection.
- The school received no notice of this inspection.

Main findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The inspection of July 2014 found that the school had failed to ensure that the designated person had attended the required two-yearly update of higher-level safeguarding training. It also acknowledged that leaders had not been sufficiently robust in implementing the school's safeguarding policy and procedures. The action plan proposed that higher-level training should be refreshed for one member of staff. It also proposed to extend the number of staff who have received higher-level training. In line with plan accepted by the DfE, training has been partially completed. The headteacher has now attended the two-yearly update and two other members of staff are due to undertake training in January 2015. Despite this training, leaders are not implementing the school's safeguarding policies adequately. Records of a safeguarding incident do not explain or support leaders' decisions about how they have chosen to respond to concerns. Leaders' responses are not consistent with school policies. While there is evidence to show that teachers monitor some concerns effectively, this is not always the case. Sometimes, there are no records to substantiate how this happens or how frequently their monitoring is reviewed.
- The last inspection identified that the school had installed CCTV cameras in classrooms without due regard for the privacy of pupils. At that time, female pupils were using classrooms to change prior to dance lessons. Furthermore, there was no policy supporting the appropriate use of CCTV. The action plan indicated the school would ensure more appropriate changing facilities for female pupils. It also set out intentions to adopt and implement a policy on the use of

CCTV. Leaders have now ensured that both male and female pupils have dedicated changing facilities that are not compromised by CCTV cameras. Pupils are prohibited from changing anywhere else. The school has now implemented a CCTV policy which sets out appropriate responsibilities for leaders. This is informed by the Data Protection Act and the Independent Commissioner's Code of Practice. As a result, CCTV practices are now appropriate and adequately understood by leaders.

Premises of and accommodation at schools

- The previous inspection identified that the school did not have designated changing facilities for female pupils. The action plan proposed a new dedicated changing room for female pupils. New facilities are now in place for both male and female pupils and these are appropriately sized given the number of pupils. However, both male and female changing facilities lead off the main hall and neither ensures complete privacy when the doors are open. At the time of this inspection, adequate temporary measures were put in place to correct this. The school has plans to install fixed solutions so that pupils' privacy is guaranteed even when the doors are opened.
- After the inspection in July 2014, leaders accepted that showering facilities were not maintained to a sufficient standard. The action plan proposed that checks on the condition and cleanliness of showers would be introduced. Checks are now in place and monitored by leaders. Consequently, at the time of this inspection, showers situated in both male and female changing facilities were very clean and fitted with appropriate privacy locks.
- At the last inspection, the school had not ensured that showers had an adequate supply of hot and cold water. The showers were not working on that visit. The action plan established this was because isolation valves were shut off because of water maintenance in other parts of the school. Plans proposed that scheduled cleaning routines would test the water supply regularly. This is now in place. During this inspection both male and female showers were in full working order, including adjustable hot and cold water supplies.

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 (paragraphs 7, 7(b)).

Inspection team

Michael Pennington, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Barbara Speake Stage School is an independent day school for boys and girls that specialises in the teaching of the performing arts.
- It is registered for 141 pupils aged three to sixteen; there are currently 95 pupils on roll.
- The school currently caters for children aged three to five in the Early Years Foundation Stage on the same premises.
- Very few pupils speak English as an additional language.
- There are currently no pupils with a statement of special educational needs or disability, although a few pupils need extra support in their learning.
- While the school was established in 1963, the proprietor has been running classes in the premises in East Acton, London, since 1945.
- The school aims to support all pupils to fulfil their creative and academic potential and to foster in them a spirit of confidence and self-reliance and the ability to work independently and cooperatively to achieve their ambitions.
- A theatrical agency, run by the school, provides the opportunity for pupils to work professionally during their time at the school. There is no other additional provision.
- The school was last fully inspected in 2013, when its overall effectiveness was judged to be adequate.

School details

Unique reference number	101948
Inspection number	454805
DfE registration number	307/6050

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	Specialist stage school
School status	Independent
Age range of pupils	3–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	86
Number of part time pupils	9
Proprietor	Barbara M Speake MBE
Headteacher	David Speake
Date of previous school inspection	4 July 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,900–£7,500
Telephone number	020 8743 1306
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