

# Barbara Speake Stage School

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

**Inspection dates** 2 June 2015

**Overall outcome** **Independent school standards 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 these 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 Part 3 (Welfare, health and safety of pupils) and Part 5 (Premises and accommodation) of the independent school standards. The school did not meet four of those standards at the time of that inspection.
- The DfE issued a Notice on 31 July 2014, instructing the school to complete a statutory action plan. The school submitted their plan on 3 September 2014. It was received by the DfE on 2 October 2014, but required improvement.
- An unannounced progress monitoring inspection of the school was carried out on 26 November 2014. The school was judged not to have met two of the independent school standards.
- The action plan then submitted by the school on 29 January 2015 was approved by the DfE on 10 March 2015. The school was instructed to publish its safeguarding policy and its most recent Ofsted inspection report on its website.
- This is the second monitoring inspection since the emergency inspection of 4 July 2014.
- The school received no notice of this inspection.

## Main findings

### Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The monitoring inspection of 26 November 2014 found that, while the safeguarding training required as a result of the inspection of 4 July 2014 had been satisfactorily completed, the school's leaders were not implementing safeguarding policies adequately. Records of safeguarding incidents did not itemise leaders' responses in sufficient detail, and other staff did not monitor safeguarding concerns consistently.
- In their January 2015 action plan, leaders committed the school to evaluating, and regularly updating, all staff training, along with improving the monitoring of all safeguarding incidents. They have successfully implemented the detail of this action plan.
- The school's safeguarding policy, along with its scheduled annual review, is now available for parents and students on the school website. A link to the school's most recent Ofsted report is also on the website, again ensuring easy access for parents and students.
- The proprietor has ensured that there are three designated safeguarding leads. All three staff have received up to date higher-level safeguarding training, with clear plans for its ongoing refreshment every two years. These staff leaders are from the teaching and support staff teams in the school. Their skills are complementary and have resulted in significant improvements to

safeguarding practices in the school.

- Records of safeguarding incidents are fit for purpose. Incidents are followed up systematically, cases are deemed 'resolved' or 'open', and the 'open' cases records are detailed and regularly monitored. The school works closely with other agencies and has a strengthening relationship of mutual support and challenge with the local authority.
- Pupils are clearly content. They told the inspector that 'this is a very happy, safe school' and they 'absolutely trust' the school's leaders to follow up any concerns they have. Similarly, staff spoke of an open safeguarding culture in the school. They detailed their recent and planned training and spoke, at length, about the range of safeguarding knowledge they had. Staff are clearly committed to keeping their pupils safe and happy.
- The school's good practice in the secure management of its CCTV security cameras has been maintained since the last inspection.

### **Premises of and accommodation at schools**

- The previous monitoring inspection identified that, while the school had created new male and female changing facilities, complete privacy could not be ensured for either gender. Both changing rooms immediately led off the main school hall and full privacy could not be ensured when entrance doors were open.
- In their January 2015 action plan, leaders committed to provide a permanent solution to fully private changing. They have now successfully implemented the detail of the action plan in this regard.
- Permanent vestibule areas have now been built in both changing rooms. These ensure that, even when entrance doors are open, pupils have complete privacy.
- The regular cleanliness, water flow and water temperature checks for the changing room showers in place at the time of the last inspection have continued. These records are fully up to date and maintained well. Both male and female showers are in full working order, with adjustable hot and cold water supplies.
- During the inspection, leaders took immediate steps to repair a small number of damaged coat hooks in the male changing room.

## Inspection team

Debbie Clinton, 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 16; there are currently 86 pupils on roll.
- The school 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 three pupils with a statement of special educational needs or disability who receive additional 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

<b>Unique reference number</b>	101948
<b>Inspection number</b>	464846
<b>DfE registration number</b>	307/6050

This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

<b>Type of school</b>	Specialist stage school
<b>School status</b>	Independent school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	86
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Barbara M Speake MBE
<b>Headteacher</b>	David Speake
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	26 November 2014
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£7,200–£7,500
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8743 1306
<b>Fax number</b>	020 8743 2746
<b>Email address</b>	enquiries@barabaraspeake.com

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