

# Iqra Academy

Enterprise Way, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 8YQ

## Inspection dates

19 November 2015

## Overall outcome

**Unmet independent school standards identified**

## Reason for the inspection

- This emergency inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) following a complaint about the quality of education at the school.
- The school was given no notice of this inspection.
- The focus of this emergency inspection was the curriculum, teaching and assessment, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, the school's arrangements to safeguard pupils, and the quality of leadership in and management of the school.
- The HMI met with the Principal, the co-principal, members of teaching and non-teaching staff, an external consultant, parents and pupils.
- Documents were scrutinised, including policies and plans for the curriculum, the safeguarding policy and the single central register of checks on staff.
- The school's most recent inspection was in February 2014. At that time, all aspects of the school's work were judged as good and all of the independent school standards were met.

## Main findings

### Part 1 – Quality of education provided

- All of the independent school standards for the quality of education are met.
- The curriculum is sufficiently broad to help pupils achieve a range of GCSEs.
- In addition to English language, English literature, mathematics and science, pupils can choose from 11 subjects for GCSEs, including two additional sciences, psychology, religious education, information and communication technology, Urdu, Arabic and citizenship.
- In July 2015, 14 pupils in Year 11 took GCSE examinations. Eleven pupils gained at least five A\*–C grades. Fourteen students gained A\*–D grades in English language and 13 gained A\*–E grades in mathematics. Fourteen students gained A\*–G grades in at least eight GCSE subjects.
- Over the past academic year, there was considerable turnover of staff in some subjects. A mentoring programme is in place to monitor and develop the work of new staff. The co-principal has identified that assessment, planning and the quality of the work that pupils record in their notebooks are the main areas for development.
- Teaching resources are sufficient for the subjects taught. There is a library, food technology room and a computer room.

### Part 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- The independent school standard for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is met.
- Pupils are inquisitive, confident and lively learners. They have a lot to say, a lot to ask and make use of teachers' specialist subject knowledge. Pupils have many opportunities to formulate and present their views on a range of contemporary and controversial issues. For example, pupils know about the vulnerabilities and legal issues surrounding female genital mutilation, child abuse, Islamophobia and drug misuse.

- Pupils are actively encouraged to play their part in the community in Peterborough. They recently took part in an interfaith event at the cathedral, which is typical of their participation in local events. Pupils see themselves as citizens with responsibilities that go beyond those of their faith.
- Pupils know about the role of parliament and that democracy means that everyone's views are important. As young women, they expect to have the same opportunities as boys and have high aspirations for their future careers.
- The teaching of citizenship and personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education gives pupils an understanding of, and balanced views on, the beliefs and traditions of Christians, Jews and Sikhs.

### **Part 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

- Senior staff did not know about the current government guidance for safeguarding pupils. As a result, not all of the policies, procedures and employment checks required to safeguard pupils are in line with statutory requirements, and sufficient training has not taken place to make sure that all staff know their full responsibilities.
- A senior member of staff is a trainer for the Prevent strategy and staff are aware of their duties to consider and report any concerns about radicalisation and extremist views.
- Not all of the designated teachers for child protection have the relevant, up-to-date training.
- The curriculum provides pupils with useful and relevant information about how to keep themselves and others safe. There are no taboo subjects. Pupils are confident to talk and have opinions about personal and sensitive issues. Such issues include forced marriage and the recent bombings across the world.

### **Part 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors**

- Not all of the required employment checks have been carried out.
- The single central register of checks shows that all staff on the register have a suitable check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), but the register does not include all of the required information.
- It is not always clear on the single central register who made the checks or when the checks were made.

### **Part 6 – Provision of information**

- Although recently updated, the safeguarding policy on the school's website refers to documents and procedures that are very out of date. The written policy, therefore, provides misleading and incomplete information. All other required information is provided.

### **Part 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

- The proprietor has not made sure that the senior staff have kept up to date with changes in government guidance, statutory requirements and the independent school standards.
- The Principal, co-principal and office staff took immediate action to address the weaknesses found during this inspection.
- The school's website does not provide parents and others with up-to-date information about the school's work.
- Parents interviewed during this inspection are very pleased with the broad range of opportunities and the aspirations that the school provides for their daughters.
- The proprietor has received no formal complaints over the past year.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

### **The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements.**

- The proprietor must ensure that arrangements to safeguard the welfare of pupils at the school have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7, 7(b)).
- The proprietor must make sure that no member of staff is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act where that person is or will be engaging in activity which is regulated activity within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to that Act (paragraph 18(2), 18(2)(a)).
- The proprietor must keep a register which shows that a check was made to establish whether each member of staff is barred from regulatory activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act; whether each member of staff is subject to any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such direction; and whether each member of staff is subject to a prohibition order or an interim prohibition order, including the date on which each check was completed (paragraph 21(1), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(ii), 21(3)(a)(iii), 21(3)(b), 21(6)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the safeguarding policy is published on the school's website (paragraph 32(1), 32(1)(c)).
- The proprietor must ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)).

## Inspection team

Heather Yaxley

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- The school opened in 2009 and is registered with the DfE to admit up to 205 girls. In 2013, the DfE agreed to the proprietor's request to extend the school's age range up to 19 years. The sixth form opened in 2014 and currently offers provision for one year.
- The school is registered with the DfE as a school with an Islamic character. The school admits Muslim and non-Muslim pupils. All current pupils are from the Muslim community.
- The school's proprietor is a single individual. The school is considering changes to the proprietorship so that a body of persons fulfils the role.
- Most of the staff, including the senior leaders, work part time.
- The school's previous inspection was in February 2014, when the overall effectiveness of the school was judged good and all of the independent school standards were met.
- The school does not use alternative providers.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	136023
<b>Inspection number</b>	10007051
<b>DfE registration number</b>	874/6003

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>	Secondary with a religious character
<b>School status</b>	Independent day school with a Muslim ethos
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11–19
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Girls
<b>Gender of pupils in the sixth form</b>	Girls
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	37
<b>Of which, number of pupils in the sixth form</b>	1
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr Muzaffar Hussain
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Abdul Razaq
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	25–27 February 2014
<b>Annual fees</b>	£3,000
<b>Telephone number</b>	01733 331433
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