

# Etz Chaim School at the Belmont

89 Middleton Road, Crumpsall, Manchester M8 4JY

**Inspection date** 13 January 2016

**Overall outcome** **Unmet independent school standards identified**

## Reason for the inspection

- This unannounced emergency inspection was conducted at the request of the Department for Education in response to a concern raised about pupils' welfare, health and safety.

## Main findings

This inspection showed that independent school regulations within Standard 3, Standard 5 and Standard 8 are not being met.

- The safeguarding documents provided to the inspector do not have sufficient regard to the most recent guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The school's written arrangements for safeguarding are based on out-of-date guidance.
- In October 2015, leaders ensured staff received a copy of the most recent guidance in order to ensure they were up to date on these matters. However, although leaders are aware of the requirement to include reference to this guidance in their policy documents, they have not yet made the necessary written changes.
- Certificates provided by leaders confirmed that they have undergone training at the appropriate levels for safeguarding. The headteacher completed training as the designated safeguarding lead on 18 October 2014.
- The deputy headteacher underwent safer recruitment training on 17 December 2014. Records of staff recruitment, including supply staff, indicate that the necessary checks, including prohibition checks, are carried out and recorded as required.
- The behaviour and anti-bullying policies provide appropriate guidance and strategies for dealing with misbehaviour, recording serious incidents and rewarding good behaviour. Records show that very few serious incidents, such as fighting, take place and any that do are dealt with and recorded fully by staff.
- Pupils who spoke to the inspector confirmed that staff are quick to intervene on the rare occasions when fights break out. Pupils confirmed that they feel safe in the school and identify effective staff supervision, such as in the playground, as helping them to feel safe outside.
- Leaders explained that, having increased the numbers on roll, half of the pupils across different year groups now take breaks and lunches at any one time in order to reduce overcrowding. Consequently, the inspector observed extended periods of activity in the playground which involved different groups of pupils.
- The school's health and safety policy is appropriate and includes suitable procedures including risk assessments, for example when pupils are away from the school site attending sports

facilities as part of the planned provision for rewards. The inspector scrutinised risk assessments, such as for the classrooms, corridors and outdoors. The documents include a suitable fire action plan.

- A member of staff takes a lead in checking the safety aspects inside and outside the building every day. These checks are recorded on a log and actions taken to remedy issues are reviewed and signed off by managers.
- The school uses the services of an outside organisation in order to ensure appropriate arrangements are made for health and safety. All staff received health and safety training on 27 October 2014.
- School records indicate that weekly checks are undertaken on fire panels and sounders and these were further checked by an external company on 23 November 2015. The inspector observed fire extinguishers located throughout the building and clear signage for exit points.
- Records show that the most recent fire evacuation drill, including pupils, was carried out on 17 December 2015. Four staff underwent fire marshal training on 19 August 2015.
- The school has drawn up a suitable first-aid policy, including arrangements for cleaning up after spillages of body fluids. There are five staff trained at level 3 in 'First Aid at Work' on 30 November 2014.
- Suitable admission and attendance registers are in place. The school is aware of its duty to keep these records in the required manner.
- The school has recently converted the only toilet on the upper floor into a small office. Consequently, the existing medical room on the upper floor is not now near to a toilet facility. At the time of the inspection, the leaders had not identified an appropriate room for the care of sick and injured pupils.
- The inspector observed multiple bars across windows in all of the classrooms used by pupils. Leaders explained that the bars were positioned in such a way as to minimise the opportunity for pupils to put their heads out or climb out of the windows. Leaders explained that no pupils were allowed in rooms unless there was a teacher present and all rooms were locked when not in use.
- There is suitable provision of toilet facilities for the ages and numbers of pupils on roll available on the ground and first floors. The toilets include appropriate washing and drying facilities with running cold and suitable hot water.
- A showering facility is available for those pupils who need this.
- Staff have separate toilet facilities.
- Daily checks by staff around the premises ensure that matters to do with pupils' health, safety and welfare are quickly identified. Leaders check that actions are taken when any issues arise. Consequently the leaders keep a close watch on the condition of the premises.
- Heating, lighting (inside and outside) and acoustic provision meet requirements.
- Drinking water is supplied in bottles for pupils who do not bring their own. A labelled drinks machine is available in the dining area should they need more.
- Suitable fenced space is available outdoors for pupils to play or carry out physical education in accordance with the school's curriculum.
- Leaders have not ensured that all the independent school standards are met, nor have they fully ensured the welfare, health and safety of students.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

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

- arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school and such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b))

- the proprietor ensures 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 and accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils, which includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility (paragraphs 24(1), 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b))
- persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently, fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently and actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraphs 34, 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)).

## Inspection team

Jonathan Woodyatt, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

## Information about this school

- Etz Chaim School was established in 1993 in North Manchester as a strictly orthodox Jewish secondary day school for boys, serving a particular strand of the local Jewish religious community. It is located in a large Victorian building on a main road in Crumpsall, Manchester.
- There are currently 146 students on roll, aged 11 to 16 years, all of whom speak English and are of White British heritage.
- The school admits pupils of differing abilities, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities, a small number of whom currently have statements of special educational needs.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	131015
<b>Inspection number</b>	10010152
<b>DfE registration number</b>	352/6053

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>	Jewish faith, secondary
<b>School status</b>	Independent school
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Boys
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	146
<b>Number of part-time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mr M Halpern
<b>Headteacher</b>	Rabbi Eli Cohen
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	24–26 June 2014
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	Voluntary donations
<b>Telephone number</b>	0161 740 0300
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:info@ec-school.org.uk">info@ec-school.org.uk</a>

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