

# Mazahirul Uloom London School

241–243 Mile End Road, London E1 4AA

**Inspection date** 2 February 2016

**Overall outcome** **Independent school standards met**

## Context of the inspection

- This unannounced 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 8 July 2015 when a number of regulations were not met. These related to safeguarding and welfare concerns, the quality of the curriculum and teaching, and the quality of leadership and management.
- The Department for Education issued a Notice to the school on 7 October 2015 to submit its action plan detailing the steps it proposed to take to rectify these concerns. The plan was evaluated on 17 November 2015. It was judged to require improvement. The Department for Education wrote to the school on 18 December 2015 confirming the decision.
- This inspection focused on the school's progress in those parts of the action plan relating to Parts 1, 3 and 8 of the independent schools standards. Additionally, the inspector examined some further aspects relating to Parts 2, 4 and 5 of the independent school standards. He also checked the school's safeguarding practices and policies.

## Main findings

### Quality of education provided

- The inspection of July 2015 found the time allocated to the elements of the National Curriculum to be insufficient. Inspectors rightly judged that the imbalance of teaching time limited the progress pupils made. Leaders have since reviewed the curriculum and schemes of work. Consequently, a greater balance exists between the Arabic curriculum and the National Curriculum taught by the school.
- The school has rewritten its curriculum policy since the last inspection. The policy has a clear vision to ensure pupils gain experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. Subject policies now exist for teaching Arabic, English, geography, art and physical education.
- At the time of the last inspection, provision for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care plan was weak. Leaders have provided training to all staff on supporting the progress, aptitudes and needs of all pupils. Regular review meetings now take place attended by education and healthcare professionals. As a result, leaders have provided effective resources for pupils with special educational needs or an education, health and care plan. Furthermore, pupils say they are supported well by the school.
- The school previously suffered a lack of specialist resources and staff expertise that resulted in the poor development of pupils' aesthetic and creative skills, knowledge and understanding. Leaders have carefully evaluated the curriculum and the provision of specialist resources, and appointed many new teachers. A much broader range of resources and staff expertise now exists. A specialist art teacher develops the creative skills of pupils and physical education is taught in all years. Leaders monitor the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in all year

groups and evaluate the work of pupils.

- During the last inspection scrutiny of work revealed that, in a significant number of subjects including English, work in books had never been marked. This had a significant and detrimental effect on the progress made by pupils. Leaders have provided additional training for all teachers to ensure they plan and teach consistently. Teachers assess regularly the work in pupils' books. As a result, pupils know the stage they are at in their learning and how to improve their work.
- A culture of assessment exists across the school. The school has a clear system to monitor the work of pupils. Teachers understand the system and apply it consistently. Leaders undertake regular observations in lessons, review the work of pupils, and evaluate the performance of teachers. Consequently, teachers are clear on how to develop their teaching.
- Leaders have taken significant steps in developing the pupils' access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance. The school has a written careers policy. Regular visits take place to careers events and an external company provides pupils with impartial advice and guidance.
- The school now meets all the standards in this part.

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**

- The personal, social, health and citizenship education curriculum has been broadened since the last inspection. It now includes activities for pupils to explore careers aspirations through curriculum vitae writing, applications for employment, college courses and apprenticeships. Additionally, with other activities in history and geography, it is widely effective in helping pupils develop an understanding of, and respect for, fundamental British values, tolerance, and respect for others.
- The pupil council is now well established within the school. Annual elections take place that encourage an understanding of the process of democracy. Members of the school council told the inspector that the school responds very well to the voice of pupils. They spoke positively about the clubs and activities on offer, and the visits that take place to careers events and museums.
- The school has purposeful displays that raise aspirations and promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A number of displays relate to the rewards system adopted by the school and the range of cultural activities on offer.
- The school continues to meet all the required standards in this part.

### **Welfare, health and safety**

- At the time of the last inspection, some risk assessments were incomplete or missing. These included arrangements for the safe management of the daily breaktime trip to a local park. Inspectors also found that the school's records relating to fire safety were incomplete.
- Leaders and trustees now review the condition of the premises regularly. Concerning fire safety, emergency gas and electricity cut-off switches have now been installed in the science laboratory. The safe storage of chemicals is carried out in accordance with control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) legislation.
- Leaders have written a clear policy to monitor and review risk. The inspector reviewed appropriate risk assessments relating to: COSHH; safeguarding; preventing radicalisation; security; e-safety; the use of public areas; and electrical and gas safety compliance. Consequently, those risk assessments missing at the time of the last inspection are now fully complete.
- The school now meets all the standards in this part.

### **Suitability of staff**

- In September 2015, a number of new staff were appointed to the school. The inspector reviewed the checks undertaken to ascertain the suitability of staff to work with children. All the necessary checks are carried out and the register for recording staff details is up to date.
- The school continues to meet all the required standards in this part.

### **Premises and accommodation**

- The July 2015 inspection found the school had no safety restrictors on upper floor windows. This was rightly judged as being of concern. The proprietor has since installed appropriate restrictors on the outside of all windows. Additionally, improvements have been made to internal lighting in the stairwell area.
- The school continues to meet all the required standards in this part.

### **Quality of leadership and management**

- At the time of the last inspection, leaders failed to ensure the safety of pupils.
- Leaders and trustees have made a significant change to the culture of the school since the last inspection. They are no longer complacent in the work they undertake.
- External training has improved the knowledge and understanding of leaders and managers. The headteacher is now clear in his vision to improve the school. Consequently, pupils are progressing well and the curriculum is appropriate to their needs, aptitudes and attainment. This is a result of effective teaching, learning and assessment, and an informed knowledge of the independent school standards.
- Leaders have responded well to the challenge of meeting the previous unmet independent school standards. They now fulfil their responsibilities effectively. Their scrutiny of the work of the school ensures that the safeguarding and welfare of pupils is promoted. As a result, the school has been able to evidence how regulations are consistently met.
- The school now meets all the standards in this part.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

**The school meets the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements**

## Inspection team

John Lambern, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## Information about this school

- This is an Islamic boys' secondary school. It is a day school and does not provide boarding accommodation for pupils. The school is located in premises above the Mazahirul Uloom Masjid.
- The school admits pupils in Year 7 through to Year 11.
- There are currently 89 pupils on roll. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs or an education, health and care plan is below average. One pupil has an education, health and care plan.
- The current headteacher started at the school in July 2015.
- The school has a number of aims; including 'to promote a culture of achievement', 'to prepare pupils for adult Muslim life', and 'to prepare pupils who can live by the Islamic code of life and participate fully in British society without compromising their faith'.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	133307
<b>Inspection number</b>	10010499
<b>DfE registration number</b>	211/6391

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>	Muslim secondary school
<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>	89
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Proprietor</b>	Mazahirul Uloom London
<b>Chair</b>	Jamshed Ali
<b>Principal</b>	Imdadur Rahman Al-Madani
<b>Headteacher</b>	Aminur Alkas
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	9 July 2015
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£2,700
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7702 8533
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:info@mul.org.uk">info@mul.org.uk</a>

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