

Al-Noor Primary School

619–625 Green Lane, Ilford IG3 9RP

Inspection dates

29 April 2016

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

- The 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 inspection was the first progress monitoring inspection following an emergency inspection on 10 September 2015.
- The school's action plan was judged as requiring improvement and was subsequently rejected by the Department for Education. A revised action plan was resubmitted in March 2016 and was considered as part of the inspection.
- The inspector had meetings with senior leaders including the headteacher and designated safeguarding lead, observed learning in all classes, scrutinised a wide range of documentation and spoke with pupils, staff and trustees throughout the inspection.
- The inspection was conducted without notice.

Main findings

Quality of education

- Leaders have ensured that all requirements in relation to the quality of education are now met. At the time of the last inspection, the range of learning opportunities in aesthetic and creative education was too narrow.
- The teaching of aesthetic and creative education has been significantly increased and strengthened. Pupils now say they enjoy many more opportunities in art and design, music, drama and design and technology. Teachers have completed effective training in the teaching of art and design, planning has been reviewed and improved, and the work displayed around the school is of a high quality and reflects a more diverse range of creative activities.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

- Leaders have ensured that all requirements in relation to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils are now met. At the time of the last inspection, pupils were encouraged to show respect for other people but this did not include the full range of those who have protected characteristics in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- The school's work in helping pupils to consider life in modern Britain is now effective. There are no longer shortcomings in aspects of pupils' personal, social, health and economic development. This is because the school's policy and curriculum have significantly improved following the previous inspection and pupils are now taught clearly about the full range of those who have protected characteristics. This change has been managed sensitively and effectively, and has involved staff training, workshops with parents and monitoring by the trustees. Younger pupils' awareness of other faiths and beliefs has been improved through a revised religious education programme and older pupils' work on different families and lifestyles, including sexual orientation and homophobia is now effectively embedded in the curriculum. Conversations with the headteacher confirm that everybody in the school, including parents, has embraced the positive cultural change in which fundamental British values and respect for the protected characteristics underpins all aspects of the school's work.

Welfare, health and safety

- Leaders have ensured that all requirements in relation to the welfare, health and safety of pupils are now met. At the time of the last inspection, the admission register of pupils did not meet requirements as records were not maintained according to current regulations and information about pupils leaving the school was not always passed on to the local authority on time. When appointing staff, leaders did not make sure that the most up-to-date guidance was followed in terms of checks on employment history and references.
- The school's admission register of pupils now meets requirements. Information about pupils leaving the school are now recorded accurately and passed on to the local authority in a timely way.
- The school's safeguarding policy and procedures are clear and meet requirements. Since the previous inspection, leaders have improved systems for appointing staff and additionally decided to retrospectively check the vetting of all staff, trustees and volunteers in the school. The latest guidance in relation to the checking of employment history and references is now followed.

Leadership and management

- Leaders and trustees, including the school's determined and focused headteacher, have worked hard to rectify the issues identified as a result of the emergency inspection in September 2015. They have successfully implemented their action plan. As a result, they have ensured that the independent school standards identified as previously unmet are now all met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Information about this school

- Al-Noor is an independent Islamic primary school located in a residential area of Ilford, Essex.
- The school provides full-time education to boys and girls aged between four and 11 years of age. There are currently 178 pupils on roll.
- The school was established in 2002 and is owned by the Al-Noor Foundation.
- The school's last inspection was an emergency inspection undertaken by Ofsted at the request of the Department for Education in September 2015. Inspectors reported a number of independent school standards as unmet. The school's last full inspection undertaken by Ofsted was in July 2007 when the school was judged to provide a good quality of education and almost all of the independent school standards were met. The school was also inspected in July 2010 and July 2013 by the Bridge Schools Inspectorate at the request of the Department for Education. Both inspections judged the school as providing a good quality of education.

School details

Unique reference number	134244
Inspection number	10017712
DfE registration number	317/6076

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.

Type of school	Primary school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	178
Proprietor	The Al-Noor Foundation
Chair	Daud Juneja
Headteacher	Someera Butt
Date of previous school inspection	10 September 2015
Annual fees (day pupils)	£3,100
Telephone number	020 8597 7576
Fax number	020 8597 9511
Email address	office@al-noorprimary.co.uk

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