

The Deenway Montessori School

3–5 Sidmouth Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4QX

Inspection dates

19 May 2016

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.
- This was the first monitoring visit since the school was inspected in September 2015. The inspection was unannounced.
- The school submitted an action plan to the DfE and this was judged to require improvement.
- The purpose of this inspection was to check if the independent school regulations have been met in the following areas: the quality of education (part 1 and part 2); welfare, health and safety of pupils (part 3); provision of information (part 6); and the quality of leadership and management (part 8).
- Inspectors met with the headteacher and deputy headteacher to discuss the progress made since the previous inspection. They also met with two of the school's designated leads for safeguarding and a group of pupils aged between 12 and 15 years. Inspectors, with the headteacher, completed short visits to classrooms to see pupils learning.
- Inspectors scrutinised a range of documentation, including the school's single central record of checks on staff and training records related to keeping pupils safe, the school's safeguarding policy and curriculum plans and policies. A scrutiny of pupils' work was undertaken.

Main findings

Part 1 – Quality of Education Provided

- At the time of the last inspection, the curriculum did not provide opportunities for pupils to understand about people with different, personal protected characteristics. Leaders are checking, through weekly discussions with staff, that equalities issues are covered in full. For example, children in Nursery consider issues such as diversity through talking about 'What makes a good community?'
- Inspectors found that pupils have an excellent knowledge of equality and the importance of developing social responsibility. Pupils demonstrate high levels of respect and tolerance towards others. They understand and value diversity in society, saying 'We respect each other's choices.' Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.
- Leaders have ensured that pupils receive useful careers guidance within the school's 'life mastery curriculum'. Pupils who spoke to inspectors demonstrated ambition, giving careful thought to a range of careers including the possibilities of becoming lawyers, accountants, solicitors or business people. Pupils are planning clear pathways to realise their ambitions, including considering the qualifications they need and the possibility of going on to university.
- Led by careers specialists from the Inspiring Futures Foundation, pupils participate in a week of focused activities. Pupils complete self-assessment tasks to develop their awareness of a range of workplace skills and attributes. Teamwork exercises, such as building a structure from art straws to support the weight of a book, encourage pupils to collaborate and develop leadership skills. Pupils enjoy these opportunities and talk in depth about the skills they are developing and

how these link to their chosen career paths. Pupils are confident they can contact careers advisors if they need to seek additional advice in the future.

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

- Inspectors found that pupils study an appropriate range of world religions and beliefs. They have a good understanding of other faiths.
- The headteacher has met with two local Church of England school leaders and other representatives from different faith groups. Work has begun to develop interfaith teaching resources across this newly forged partnership. Plans to host an interfaith dinner for pupils are well underway.
- Older pupils keep up to date with current affairs and politics. They confidently talked to inspectors about the European Union referendum and the recent election for a new Mayor of London. They told inspectors how important it is to consider views from several sources so that they retain a balanced, unbiased view of current affairs.
- Pupils enjoy opportunities to mix with other young people beyond the school gates. Recent happenings like the school's participation in a 'Debate like a World Champion' competition and a climbing event at the Reading Climbing Centre contribute well to encouraging pupils to mix socially with young people from other backgrounds. Pupils rightly feel these opportunities broaden their horizons.

Part 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- The school's safeguarding policy was out of date at the previous inspection and not published on the school's website. Staff reviewed the school's policy in April 2016 and it now follows the most up-to-date guidance. It covers all aspects of 'Keeping children safe in education', 2015. The policy provides clear guidance for staff to follow if they have a concern about a pupil.
- All staff have attended training in child protection and have received a copy of the government's latest guidance. Three members of staff have completed the designated safeguarding lead training. Two members of staff act as the school's joint designated leads. When they spoke to inspectors, they demonstrated a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Leaders have ensured that other staff have completed a range of safeguarding and child protection training, including training on the government's 'Prevent' duty. The headteacher and deputy headteacher have completed safer recruitment training. All staff training records were checked during the inspection and found to be up to date. Leaders have prioritised staff training and ensure there is a suitable breadth and depth to training opportunities available to staff.
- The school's single central record meets requirements. Leaders have ensured that the relevant employment checks are carried out, including disqualification by association checks and prohibition checks.

Part 6 – Provision of information

- Since the previous inspection the headteacher has updated the school's website ensuring it now meets requirements. The recently revised safeguarding policy and the latest Ofsted report are published on the school's website.

Part 8 – Quality of leadership and management of schools

- The proprietor has ensured that The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 are met.
- The headteacher has ensured that previous shortcomings have been addressed fully. Policies and procedures relating to keeping pupils safe follow current guidance. Staff have all received appropriate training and procedures are kept under regular review.
- A broad and balanced curriculum enables pupils to be well informed about a range of topics including equalities issues. They are well prepared for life in modern Britain and are developing a sound sense of citizenship. They have a secure understanding of other faiths.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

Elizabeth Farr, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Geraint Evans

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- The Deenway Montessori is an independent day school for boys and girls aged from three to 16 years with an Islamic ethos. The school opened in 2009 and is registered for up to 110 pupils. It is situated in a Grade II listed building in the centre of Reading, Berkshire. The school is owned by Deenway Company Limited, a not-for-profit social enterprise.
- The school was last inspected in September 2015.
- Pupils are taught in small mixed-aged classes. There are currently 89 pupils on roll.
- The school has a Nursery and children attend on a part-time basis, in either the morning or afternoon.
- Pupils have diverse heritages. Some pupils speak English as an additional language. Not all pupils are Muslim.
- The school teaches the Montessori curriculum to children up to the age of 11. Pupils aged 11 to 16 are taught the liberal arts curriculum. Pupils are taught in eight classes: the Nursery (three- to four-year-olds); the Children's House (five- to six-year-olds); Lower Elementary class (six- to nine-year-olds); and the Upper Elementary class (nine- to 11-year-olds). Pupils aged 11 to 16 are taught in the Unicity College in four classes. There are no pupils in Year 11.
- The school aims to 'nurture the mind, body and spirit of each child' and to prepare them to be able to direct their own learning and development throughout their lives.

School details

Unique reference number	135995
Inspection number	10017765
DfE registration number	870/6016

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	Montessori day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	2–16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	89
Number of part time pupils	27
Proprietor	The Deenway Company Ltd
Chair	Mr Munawar Karim
Headteacher	Mr Munawar Karim
Date of previous school inspection	22 September 2015
Annual fees (day pupils)	£3,600
Telephone number	0118 957 4737
Email address	connect@deenway.org

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