

International Community School

4 York Terrace East, Regents Park, London NW1 4PT

Inspection dates

20 May 2016

Overall outcome

Unmet independent school standards identified

Reason for the inspection

- The inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education following an anonymous concern about pupils' safety on a residential trip to India.
- The inspector was asked to report against regulations contained within Parts 3, 6 and 8 of the independent school standards.
- The inspection was conducted without notice.
- The school's most recent inspection was a progress monitoring inspection in November 2014, when all independent school standards were judged to be met. The school's last full inspection was in April 2014 when its overall effectiveness was judged to be inadequate.
- The inspector spoke with pupils who went on the trip, met with the head of school, trip leader, secondary principal and the designated safeguarding lead, and scrutinised all relevant documentation.

Main findings

- Leaders work hard to provide pupils with enriching learning experiences, including trips abroad. These are generally well planned, enjoyed by pupils and successful in meeting their aims.
- Most arrangements for safeguarding in the school are strong. The school's policy meets requirements and is published on the school's website, alongside all other relevant policies. The designated safeguarding lead has implemented clear, detailed and reliable safeguarding procedures. Safeguarding training goes beyond what is expected of schools and includes, for example, recent training based on lessons learned from a local school's serious case review. The school's safeguarding culture, ably led by the designated safeguarding lead, is one in which 'anybody can make a referral' and where staff are continuously encouraged to 'think the unthinkable'.
- The school's arrangements for first aid, including on school trips, meet requirements. For example, all staff who accompanied pupils on a recent residential trip were trained first aiders. Therefore, any medical incident could be appropriately cared for. Accidents, incidents and any action taken by first aiders are well documented.
- Health and safety laws are complied with in line with the school's clear health and safety policy, which is followed by all staff.
- The school has appropriate risk assessments in place for a range of school activities. However, for a residential trip to India, a generic risk assessment provided by the external company organising the trip was relied on as the school's only written risk assessment. While conversations were had, and useful information gathered about pupils and any additional needs before the trip, there was no system to record these and assess the risks as a result. Furthermore, although there were enough staff on the trip, they could have been deployed more effectively, especially if some specific risks arising during the trip had been more actively considered.

- The school has not ensured that those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities so that the independent school standards are met consistently and that they actively promote the well-being of pupils.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school (paragraphs 7, 7(a)).
- Ensure that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff on school trips (paragraph 14).
- Ensure that the welfare of pupils on school trips is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified (paragraphs 16, 16(a), 16(b)).
- Ensure that those with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently; that they fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently and that they actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)).

Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Information about this school

- The International Community School is an independent international school for pupils aged three to 18. The school opened in 1979 and is registered to admit up to 380 pupils. There are currently 230 pupils on roll.
- The school is situated on three sites in central London, which are all approximately a mile apart from one another.
- Many pupils speak English as an additional language and a high proportion are foreign nationals. A small proportion have special educational needs.
- The school's curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate. The school places a strong emphasis on the use of educational visits and additional experiences outside school to enrich the curriculum.

School details

Unique reference number	101171
Inspection number	10019010
DfE registration number	213/6304

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	International independent school
School status	Independent
Age range of pupils	3–18 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	230
Proprietors	Mr B A Toettcher and Mrs E A Toettcher
Chair	Mr B A Toettcher
Head of school	Ms R Threlfall
Date of previous school inspection	26 November 2014
Annual fees (day pupils)	£16,650–£22,100
Telephone number	020 7935 1206
Email address	primary@ics.uk.net

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