

Springfield Christian School

145 Perry Hill, Catford, London SE6 4LP

Inspection dates

14 June 2016

Overall outcome

Independent school standards met

Context of the inspection

- This inspection was the school's first progress monitoring inspection since its last full inspection in October 2015 and was conducted without notice. At the last inspection the school was judged to be inadequate, when a number of requirements were not met.
- The Department for Education wrote to the school on 14 March 2016 to note that the action plan it had submitted on 25 January 2016 had not been approved.
- The inspection focused on the school's progress in implementing those parts of the action plan relating to Parts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the independent school standards. The inspection also checked the progress towards those aspects highlighted in sections 1, 2 and 3 of the statutory requirements for the early years provision.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, proprietor, observed learning in all classes, scrutinised a wide range of documentation and spoke with pupils and staff throughout the inspection.

Main findings

Quality of education provided

- At the time of the last inspection, the school did not have a scheme of work for music. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would devise a new scheme that would include assessment success criteria. As a result of implementing its action plan, the school now has a satisfactory scheme of work for music that is based on the requirements of the national curriculum. As a result, all the requirements for this part are met.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- At the time of the last inspection, the school did not comply with three of the paragraphs of the independent school standards for this part. This was because the school's safeguarding policy did give sufficient detail about such issues as child sexual exploitation (CSE) and forced marriage (FM), particularly for younger children. In its action plan, the school indicated that it would revise its safeguarding policy to include more detail about CSE and FM. As a result of implementing its action plan, the school's safeguarding policy has been updated and now meets current requirements. All staff have received training in the 'Prevent' duty and all staff have been given a copy of the school's revised safeguarding policy.
- The inspection in October 2015 identified a number of health and safety issues. For example, behind an unfixed low screen in the baby room, cupboards and drawers containing equipment and scissors had no child safety latches. Also, an unlocked toilet cubicle adjacent to the library was found to have a faulty water heater. In its action plan, the school indicated that these issues would be swiftly rectified, and that the headteacher and proprietor would appoint a consultant and also attend training in health and safety. As a result of implementing its action plan, the health and safety

issues identified have been rectified. A consultant has visited the school and the headteacher and proprietor have attended health and safety training in March 2016.

- At the time of the last inspection, proprietors and governors were not monitoring the implementation of the school's risk assessment policy regularly enough. In its action plan, the school indicated that daily indoor and outdoor checks would be made and recorded by staff. They also proposed that all staff would be furnished with a daily, weekly and half-termly checklist to ensure that all areas are maintained to a high standard. The proprietor and leaders now regularly monitor the effective implementation of risk assessments and the health and safety of the school. Detailed records are kept so that any aspects that need improvement can be swiftly rectified.
- The school meets all the requirements for this standard.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- The inspection in October 2015, identified that not all references and checks, including 'disqualification by association', were received before staff appointments were confirmed. As a result of implementing the action plan, the school's safer recruitment policy was revised, updated and ratified by governors in March 2016. Scrutiny of a sample of staff personnel files confirmed that all recruitment checks meet requirements.
- At the time of the last inspection, leaders did not maintain a suitable register that recorded all the required details of employment checks. The single central register of recruitment checks now meets current statutory requirements.

Premises of and accommodation at schools

- At the time of the last inspection, the school had not ensured that a suitable bed and first aid equipment was provided in the medical room. Inspection of the medical room confirmed that this aspect has been rectified.
- The school now meets all the requirements for this standard.

Provision of information

- At the time of the last inspection the school's safeguarding policy did not give sufficient detail about such issues as CSE and FM, particularly for younger children. This has now been rectified and the updated safeguarding policy complies with the Secretary of State's most recent guidance. Consequently, the requirements for this standard are met.

Quality of leadership in and management of schools

- Since the last inspection, the proprietors, headteacher and all staff have worked very effectively to address the unmet requirements.
- Through the engagement of specialist advisors, implementation of staff training and strengthening the monitoring of teaching and children's learning, the proprietors and headteacher have ensured that all the independent school standards are met and that pupils' well-being is assured.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

- At the time of the last inspection, staff did not systematically record and use meaningful evidence to plan challenging experiences for children. Inspection evidence shows that staff now make effective use of baseline assessments so that they have a clear understanding of where children are currently operating and are able to plan meaningful activities. Learning journals and diaries carefully track and evidence children's progress. This information is recorded on the local authority's tracking spreadsheet, from which a meaningful analysis can be drawn.
- The inspection in October 2015 identified that leaders did not ensure that there was always an appropriate mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. As a result of implementing the action plan, staff regularly review how they use their interactions to support and extend children's learning. From inspection evidence and scrutiny of the

school's records of observations, staff are now scaffolding learning during purposeful play and free-flow activities rather than just 'supervising' these activities.

- At the time of the last inspection, not all staff had received appropriate training so that they were confident in assessment and in planning suitable activities for children. Staff have attended training led by a number of providers, including the local authority. Sessions have included strategies for assessing children's progress and planning purposeful play sessions. In addition, staff have visited good or outstanding early years settings in order to observe good practice. The local authority's advisor for early years has provided very helpful training, support and guidance regarding early years practice and the requirements of the inspection framework.
- During the last inspection, issues relating to safer recruitment and health and safety in the early years provision were identified. As detailed above in relation to the whole school, these shortfalls have now been rectified.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

Inspection team

David Scott, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

Information about this school

- The school aims to 'encourage the highest standards in academic and extra-curricular pursuits within a friendly and supportive community'. The central aim is to 'nurture children in the way of God'.
- The joint proprietors are husband and wife. They started Springfield Christian School in 1999. One proprietor worked full time in the school, where she was known as 'matron'. She had responsibility for the curriculum, teaching and learning and children's welfare. In September 2015, an internally promoted leader was appointed as headteacher to undertake these responsibilities.
- Since September 2015, the school has ceased to provide education for key stage 2 pupils, due to the constraints of the school premises. There are 48 children on roll. There is new provision for five babies which falls outside the remit of this inspection. There are 35 children aged between two and five in the early years, 16 of whom attend part time. Eight key stage 1 pupils are taught in a combined Year 1 and Year 2 class.
- Leaders are currently recruiting additional governors to join the governing body.
- The school provides before- and after-school day care for children from 8am to 6pm.
- The school was last inspected in October 2015.

School details

Unique reference number	132110
Inspection number	10017843
DfE registration number	209/6362

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	Christian
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	2–7
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	48
Number of part time pupils	16
Proprietor	Mr and Mrs Oludimu
Chair	Mr Burford
Headteacher	Mrs Seun Adebayo
Date of previous school inspection	13–15 October 2015
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,000
Telephone number	0208 291 4433
Website	www.springfieldsch.co.uk
Email address	admin@springfieldsch.co.uk

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