

Buttercup Primary School

181 Cannon Street Road, London E1 2LX

Inspection dates

20 June 2018

Overall outcome

The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraph 3, 3(a) and 3(d)

- At the time of the previous inspection, leaders did not ensure that teaching met the needs and abilities of different groups of pupils, particularly the most able pupils. Pupils were not provided with effective opportunities, particularly in mathematics and science, to think and justify their opinions.
- In the action plan submitted to the Department for Education (DfE), leaders planned a range of actions to improve the curriculum, teachers' planning and use of assessment in order to meet pupils' needs and improve their rates of progress.
- This inspection found that leaders have put in place their intended actions. They have improved the use of staff development to enhance teachers' skills. Training in mathematics has been used to improve planning in this subject. The deputy headteacher who now takes responsibility for the quality of teaching and learning ensures that teachers have an accurate understanding of pupils' skills and abilities. The long-term plans and individual lesson plans incorporate challenges for the most able and opportunities to develop mastery in mathematics and science.
- Leaders accurately assess pupils' starting points and measure their progress in each of the subjects taught. Systems to assess and monitor pupils' progress have been strengthened. The curriculum has been redesigned. Leaders have worked with teachers and other professionals to establish a curriculum that enables pupils to make progress and acquire knowledge and skills in all subjects.
- Teachers are confident in how to meet pupils' individual needs. Pupils report that lessons challenge them to think hard and justify their answers. The work in pupils' books demonstrates that leaders' planned actions are being realised.
- These paragraphs are now met.
- The independent school standards in this part are now met.

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

Paragraph 5, 5(b)(vi)

- At the previous inspection, leaders did not ensure that the school's provision for promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development encouraged a deep understanding and respect for people with protected characteristics.
- The school's policy for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and the PSHE curriculum documents that were submitted to the DfE did not support what leaders set out to do in their action plan.
- This inspection found that leaders have overhauled the PSHE curriculum. They have developed the way in which teachers plan for PSHE and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. These aspects are embedded across other subjects in each year group. A revised assembly programme is in place which makes links between the protected characteristics and the school's values. Discussions with pupils and work in their books demonstrate that the PSHE curriculum, and subjects such as religious education, actively promotes and encourages respect for others, paying regard to the protected characteristics.
- Pupils say that derogatory language of any kind is not tolerated at the school. They know that homophobic bullying and gender-based bullying are unacceptable. They confirm that the school's assemblies and PSHE sessions actively promote tolerance and respect for others.
- These paragraphs are now met.

Paragraph 5(d), 5d(i), 5(d)(ii) and 5(d)(iii)

- At the previous inspection, vetting procedures for visitors were inadequate. Leaders did not check visitors' backgrounds and were unable to ensure that visitors would uphold the school's ethos and ensure non-promotion of partisan views.
- This inspection found that leaders have established a policy that sets out the school's procedures for ensuring that visitors are suitably checked. Leaders make sure that all staff are clear on these procedures. Leaders ensure that visitors' backgrounds are checked before they are invited into the school to work with pupils, deliver workshops or present information in assemblies. Leaders make sure that visitors sign declarations that prohibit the promotion of partisan views. Risk assessments are in place for every session that involves visitors to the school. Robust procedures ensure that any materials used by visitors are checked by the designated safeguarding leader.
- These paragraphs are now met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b) and 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- At the previous inspection, safeguarding procedures were ineffective. Staff were unaware of how to make an allegation against the headteacher. Furthermore, the safeguarding policy referred to governors, despite the school not having a governing body.

- The school's safeguarding policy has been revised and meets the current legislation. It is appropriate and published on the school's website.
- This inspection found safeguarding procedures to be robust. Staff are clear about how to report concerns about a pupil's welfare and how to report an allegation against the headteacher. Leaders have ensured that all staff have the appropriate training and are up to date with the current guidance. The headteacher, deputy headteacher and assistant headteacher are all appropriately trained in the role of designated safeguarding lead. The school's single central record of staff suitability checks continues to meet requirements.

Paragraph 11, 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- At the previous inspection, leaders failed to ensure that potential hazards to pupils' safety were thoroughly risk assessed. Pupils were able to gain access to dangers in the staff kitchen area and leaders had an overly casual approach to assessing risks. Risk assessments were generic and not effective at safeguarding pupils' welfare.
- This inspection found that leaders are implementing a new and improved health and safety policy. Roles and responsibilities have been revised so that the school business manager, alongside other leaders, makes sure that the school site is safe for pupils. Staff have received training in order to fulfil their roles. The proprietors monitor this aspect of the school's work thoroughly.
- This inspection found that the school is free from potential hazards. Leaders' checks on all areas take place each day. Identified actions are addressed swiftly and record-keeping is robust. Leaders have improved the risk assessment procedures. Risk assessments are now specific to each activity or educational visit, and identify potential dangers appropriately. Leaders make sure that all staff have an up-to-date understanding on how to assess risks in their classrooms and on school trips. Records show that the revised procedures are implemented consistently.
- These paragraphs are now met.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraph 32, 32(3)(e) and 32(3)(f)

- At the time of the previous inspection, the school did not ensure that information about pupils' academic performance during the preceding year was available for parents on the school's website. Furthermore, the school's complaints policy was not available for parents on the website.
- This information is now published on the school's website for parents.
- These paragraphs are now met.
- All the independent standards in this part are met.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Paragraphs 33, 33(b), 33(f), 33(g), 33(i), 33(i)(i), 33(i)(ii), 33(j), 33(j)(i), 33(j)(ii) and 33(k)

- The complaints policy that was submitted with the action plan, following the last inspection, was not compliant and aspects were missing.
- The policy did not include provision for the complaint to be considered by a panel of at least three people not directly involved in the issues relating to the complaint, at least one of whom is independent of the management of the school. The policy did not specify who will receive the outcome of the panel hearing and how information will be stored and records kept.
- The inspection found that leaders have addressed the weaknesses identified. The complaints policy, which is published online for parents, now meets requirements.
- The paragraphs in this part are now met.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)

- Since the previous inspection, leaders have revised staff roles and responsibilities and developed greater accountability among leaders and proprietors. They have ensured that the intended actions in their improvement plan have been realised.
- Leaders have an improved understanding of the independent school standards. They have improved monitoring procedures and used professional development opportunities to improve staff knowledge, skills and understanding at all levels.
- This inspection confirms that they have addressed the standards that were not met at the previous inspection.
- These paragraphs are now met.
- All the independent school standards in this part are met.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

- At the previous inspection, the statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage were not met because of the ineffective safeguarding procedures.
- Leaders have put in place a range of measures to improve the early years. The procedures in place to safeguard pupils in key stages 1 and 2 extend to the early years. Vetting procedures for visitors, improved health and safety checks and more robust risk assessment systems ensure that children in the early years are safe from harm.
- Leaders have worked closely with the early years advisers from the local authority to ensure that their work is moderated and checked by other professionals. Improvements have been made to the accuracy and use of assessment information. Leaders have developed the quality of planning so that children's individual needs are identified and any gaps in children's learning are addressed.
- The statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage are now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

The school now meets the following independent school standards

- The proprietor must ensure that teaching at the school:
 - enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught (paragraph 3 and 3(a))
 - shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account when planning lessons (paragraph 3 and 3(d)).
- The proprietor must ensure that leaders consistently encourage respect for other people, playing particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act (paragraph 5 and 5(b)(vi)).
- Preclude the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school (paragraph 5 and 5(c)).
- The proprietor must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political views are brought to the attention of pupils, that they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views (paragraph 5, 5(d), 5(d)(i), 5(d)(ii) and 5(d)(iii)).
- The proprietor must ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school, and such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7, 7(a) and 7(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the school complies with relevant health and safety laws by implementing the health and safety policy effectively (paragraph 11).
- The proprietor must ensure that the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by ensuring that the premises risk assessments are conducted regularly and that the appropriate actions are taken to reduce risks that are identified (paragraph 16, 16(a) and 16(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that the school's current safeguarding policy, pupils' academic performance during the preceding year and current complaints procedure are available for parents on the school's website (paragraph 32(1), 32(1)(c), 32(3), 32(3)(e), 32(3)(f), 33 and 33(b)).
- The proprietor must ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently, fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently, and actively promote the well-being of pupils by protecting them from harm (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)).

- The proprietor must ensure that the school meets the statutory framework requirements of the early years foundation stage.

School details

Unique reference number	138564
DfE registration number	211/6003
Inspection number	10052579

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Other independent school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	141
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	0
Number of part-time pupils	11
Proprietor	Neyarun Nessa Rena Begum
Headteacher	Rena Begum
Annual fees (day pupils)	£0–£7,800
Telephone number	020 3759 7408
Website	www.buttercupprimary.co.uk
Email address	info@buttercupprimary.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	4–6 July 2017

Information about this school

- Buttercup Primary is an Islamic school that caters for pupils from three to 11 years.

Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged to not comply with at its previous inspection.
- The school's last inspection took place in July 2017 where the overall effectiveness of the school was judged as inadequate. The school submitted an action plan. Ofsted reviewed the action plan in December 2017 and found it to be not acceptable. The DfE rejected the action plan.
- This inspection was the school's first monitoring inspection and was conducted without notice.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, who is also the proprietor, the deputy headteacher and early years coordinator. He spoke with members of staff and a director of the school.
- The inspector spoke formally with a group of pupils and held discussions with pupils informally throughout the day. He visited lessons in all year groups.
- The inspector looked at pupils' books and sampled the school's policies, procedures and single central record of staff suitability checks.
- The inspector toured the school and scrutinised documents such as risk assessments and health and safety policies.
- There were too few responses to Parent View, Ofsted's online survey, to consider as part of this inspection.

Inspection team

Gary Rawlings, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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