

# Education My Life Matters

5 Rosenthal Road, Lewisham SE6 2BX

**Inspection dates**

28 November 2018

**Overall outcome**

**The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

*Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b), 9, 9(b), 11, 12, 16, 16(a), 16(b), 25, 32(1) and 32(1)(c)*

- Two different child protection and safeguarding policies were presented to the inspector, one of which is published on the school's website. Neither are compliant with the latest statutory guidance.
- The designated safeguarding lead last completed an appropriate level of online training in September 2016. The deputy designated safeguarding lead is not named in the school's policy.
- The arrangements for inducting and training staff, including temporary agency staff, are weak. For example, the inspector saw staff checking their mobile phones and drinking hot drinks while in classrooms with pupils.
- Although pupils have social, emotional and mental health needs, the expectations of pupils' behaviour are too low. No pupils seen during the inspection were adhering to the code of conduct outlined in the school's behaviour policy; the school was chaotic and behaviour was poor.
- The school's premises are unsafe. Leaders' approach to risk assessment is too weak. There are holes in the walls, doors without handles and leaders had not realised that a fire exit had been locked shut until during the inspection. The facilities are not clean enough. The scalding hot water supply and the accessibility of the boiler to pupils present safety concerns. There has not been a fire drill logged since April 2018, and there are no records of standard fire safety checks, such as weekly checks of the fire alarm system. There has not been a fire safety risk assessment of the new premises.
- Some of the independent school standards in this part are no longer met, as listed in the annex to this report.

### Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

*Paragraphs 13, 24(1), 24(1)(a) and 24(1)(b)*

- The school's first aid policy cannot be implemented because there is no medical room facility. The proposed medical room is a locked room full of broken equipment awaiting

disposal. It does not include a washing facility, and even when operational will not be near enough to a toilet facility.

- Leaders relocated the school to these new premises in September 2018. The delay in ensuring that the required facilities are in place is unacceptable.

*Paragraph 28(1), 28(1)(b) and 28(1)(d)*

- There is hot running water at the washing facilities in the new premises. This means the previously unmet paragraph 28(1), 28(1)(b) is now met.
- However, the hot water supply ran scalding hot when it was tested during the inspection. This is because the boiler is accessible to pupils who can change the temperature. Paragraph 28(1), 28(1)(d) is not met.
- Some of the independent school standards in this part are no longer met, as listed in the annex to this report.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- Leaders have relocated the school's premises from September 2018 without informing the registration authority and without asking permission to make a material change to their registration agreement. The current address recorded with the Department for Education (DfE) is incorrect.
- Leaders are admitting pupils of primary age. This is in breach of their registration agreement, which allows the school to admit pupils aged 11 to 16.
- This inspection, commissioned primarily to check the school's progress in meeting just one unmet independent school standard, identified multiple concerns borne out of poor planning and a lack of urgency. As a result, the independent school standards in this part are no longer met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school does not meet 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, as set out in the annex of this report. 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.

## School details

Unique reference number	143933
DfE registration number	209/6003
Inspection number	10078725

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	Day school and alternative provider
School status	Independent special school
Age range of pupils	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	nine
Number of part-time pupils	None
Proprietor	Ervin Hall
Chair	Charmaine Walters
Headteacher	Cynthia Eubanks
Annual fees (day pupils)	£17,550
Telephone number	020 8698 9663
Website	<a href="http://www.emlm.org.uk">www.emlm.org.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:info@emlm.org.uk">info@emlm.org.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	20–22 March 2018

## Information about this school

- Education My Life Matters is an independent special school that also provides alternative provision.
- The school has registration for up to 20 pupils aged 11 to 16. However, the school is providing alternative provision for pupils of primary age without registration to do so.
- The school's premises have changed since September 2018, without the relevant permissions. Leaders have not requested a material change to their registration agreement with the DfE.
- Pupils are referred by local authority secondary schools in the London Borough of

Lewisham.

- The school's most recent inspection was its first full standard inspection in March 2018.
- The school makes no use of alternative provision.

## 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 not to comply with at its previous inspection.
- In March 2018, a full standard inspection judged the school to require improvement and identified one paragraph of the independent school standards as unmet. The school submitted an action plan, which was judged to be acceptable.
- This was the school's first progress monitoring inspection, and was conducted without notice.
- This inspection focused on the school's progress against a specific requirement within Part 5 of the independent school standards. The inspector toured the premises and scrutinised a range of documentation with the school's 'strategic lead'. He also considered the school's compliance with safeguarding requirements, and considered the school's premises, which have changed since the previous inspection.
- There have been no recent responses to Ofsted's online survey, Parent View.

## Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

## **Annex. Compliance with regulatory requirements**

### **The school does not meet the following independent school standards**

*Standards that were met at the previous inspection, but are now judged to not be met at this inspection*

#### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

- 7 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—
  - 7(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and
  - 7(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 9 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor promotes good behaviour amongst pupils by ensuring that—
  - 9(b) the policy is implemented effectively.
- 11 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy.
- 12 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 13 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that first aid is administered in a timely and competent manner by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written first aid policy.
- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—
  - 16(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and
  - 16(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

#### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

- 24(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils, including—
  - 24(1)(a) accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils;
  - 24(1)(b) accommodation for the short term care of sick and injured pupils, which

includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility.

- 25 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.
- 28(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—
  - 28(1)(d) the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users.

### **Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

- 34(1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school—
  - 34(1)(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;
  - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and
  - 34(1)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

### **The school now meets the following requirements of the independent school standards**

#### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

- 28(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—
  - 28(1)(b) toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water.

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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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