

Marathon Science School

1–9 Evelyn Street, Surrey Quays, London SE8 5RQ

Inspection dates

02/04/2019

Context of the inspection

This inspection was commissioned by the Department of Education. It followed the most recent inspection of the setting on 10 and 11 July 2018.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The school was subject to 10 breaches of the national minimum standards at the monitoring visit in July 2018. Following this visit, the school has successfully met all of the national minimum standards. The headmaster stated that the July 2018 monitoring visit had been a 'shock to the system'.

Feedback from boarders is positive. Boarders reported that boarding staff are 'really helpful' and act 'like our mum and dad'. Boarders reported an increased range of activities, such as a recent trip to Istanbul and regular visits to local leisure centres.

A new head of boarding was appointed in September 2019. He has been employed by the school since 2009 and is known to boarders. He has settled well into his new position and offers regular supervision and performance appraisal to boarding staff members.

Management monitoring is now more thorough. The head of boarding meets regularly with the headmaster. Meetings focus on the welfare needs of boarders and on the monitoring of compliance with the national minimum standards. There have been no safeguarding referrals to the host local authority since the last inspection.

The school has revised its website. The website now contains a statement of the school's boarding principles and policies on safeguarding and health and safety. These policies were updated in September 2018.

Access to advocacy has improved. Boarders now have access to appropriate telephone helplines including that of the office of the Children's Commissioner.

Medication practice is safer. The head of boarding has introduced a new auditing system to accurately monitor levels of prescribed and non-prescribed medication. Boarding staff ensure that all prescribed medication is stored safely. The new procedure is understood and enforced consistently.

The boarding accommodation has improved. Window restrictors are now in place throughout the boarding house and a programme of redecoration has been completed. The boarding house benefits from the addition of a new games room.

Fire safety practice has greatly improved. The fire safety officer has completed a programme of training which enables him to complete the required risk assessments. The head of boarding has ensured that the school has complied with all the recommendations from an independent fire safety audit completed in July 2018.

National minimum standards

The school has made good progress and now meets all the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

Inspection team

Barnaby Dowell

Lead social care inspector

Kevin Whatley

Social care inspector

Information about this school

Marathon Science School is a boarding school for boys. The school is situated in Lewisham and the boarding provision is in Shoreditch. The boarding provision is located within a mosque complex. The school opened in September 2009. The school is registered for 144 pupils. The boarding site can currently accommodate a maximum of 120 boarders between the ages of 10 and 16 years. There are presently 40 pupils of whom 38 are boarders. Six boarders attend a local sixth-form school and are included on the rolls of both the school and sixth-form provisions. The boys usually go home to their families on alternate weekends. Most of the boys come from London boroughs, although some come from further afield. The proprietors are four trustees comprising the Seven Hill Education Trust, a registered charitable trust. The school was established with the aim of providing a 24-hour curriculum inspired by Islamic values.

School details

Unique reference number	135901
Social care unique reference number	SC400622
DfE registration number	209/6409

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

The inspection was conducted 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 following the previous inspection.

Type of school	Boarding school
Number of boarders on roll	38
Gender of boarders	Boys
Age range of boarders	10 to 19
Headteacher	Mr Uzeyir Onur
Date of previous boarding inspection	11/07/2019
Telephone number	02072 313232
Email address	uzeyironur@marathonschool.com

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