

# Gateshead Jewish Primary School

18–19 Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE8 4EA

**Inspection date**

27 November 2019

**Overall outcome**

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

## Main inspection findings

### Part 1. Quality of education provided

#### *Paragraphs 2(2), 2(2)(d)(ii)*

- At the previous inspection, senior leaders said that they would not teach pupils about all the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, pupils do not learn about different sexual orientations or gender identity.
- The school's action plan noted that any pupils who had questions or needed support around his or someone else's sexual orientation would be given support from the school and external bodies. However, it confirmed that pupils would not be taught about different sexual orientations or gender identity.
- During this inspection, senior leaders confirmed that pupils would not be taught about different sexual orientations or gender identity.
- This standard is therefore not met.

#### *Paragraphs 3, 3(j)*

- At the previous inspection, inspectors found this standard not to be met because leaders did not convince them that pupils would be supported and not discriminated against if they were questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- The school's action plan contains information on how pupils would be supported if they had questions or concerns surrounding their own or other's sexual orientation.
- During this inspection, leaders confirmed that they have a system in place for pupils to alert staff to their worries. Pupils have an 'in confidence' box, where they can share any concerns they may have in complete confidence. This includes if they are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. This box is being used by pupils. Pupils also told me that they knew they could speak to a teacher or the headteacher if they were worried about anything. Leaders say that they would not discriminate against any pupil who wished to discuss the sexual orientation of themselves or others and would seek appropriate external support, where necessary.
- Therefore, this standard is met.

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

### *Paragraphs 5, 5(b), 5(b)(vi)*

- At the previous inspection, inspectors identified pupils' lack of knowledge of two of the protected characteristics: sexual orientation and gender identity. This was due to the school's principles of not teaching pupils about these protected characteristics. The action plan confirmed the continued stance of the school not to inform pupils of these protected characteristics. Senior leaders reiterated this stance during this inspection.
- Therefore, this standard is not met.
- The school's full standard inspection of March 2016 identified that pupils needed further opportunities to meet and learn with people from different traditions and backgrounds from the local and wider community.
- During this inspection, I found evidence to show that leaders had taken steps to address this area for improvement.
- School leaders have a carefully planned policy that ensures that pupils learn about fundamental British values and respecting difference in our society. For example, pupils have recently visited and helped at food banks. They have visited non-Jewish schools, where pupils took part in non-religious assemblies and become pen pals with pupils from this school. Through these interactions and letters, pupils have answered questions about their own faith and learned about the culture and customs of others. Lots of activities take place in school, such as playing games without rules, so that pupils learn first-hand about the rule of law.
- However, although pupils know that other people have religions and beliefs that differ from their own and they are accepting of this, they are not knowledgeable about what those beliefs are.

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

### *Paragraphs 7, 7(a) 7(b), Part 6 32(1)(c)*

- The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) ensures that the safeguarding policy that is available to parents and carers contains all the required information. It is updated on a regular basis. He is a member of Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- The DSL ensures that all staff are knowledgeable about child protection and the steps they need to take should they have any concerns.
- There have been no incidents where staff have been disciplined, dismissed or have left prior to the end of an investigation for causing harm to children. The school is aware of its duty to notify the Disclosure and Barring Service should there be any incidents in the future.
- These standards were met at the last inspection and continue to be met.

### *Paragraphs 9, 9(c)*

- The previous inspection identified that the records of behavioural incidents were not effectively organised.
- The school's action plan of June 2019 gave examples of the new documentation to record incidents.

- During this inspection, I was able to see the new system which documents incidents relating to behaviour. The DSL and headteacher have oversight of this system to ensure that it is used effectively and monitored.
- This standard is now met.

*Paragraphs 16, 16(a)*

- The previous inspection identified that school leaders did not have a consistent approach to writing risk assessments.
- The school's action plan gave an example of a comprehensive risk assessment.
- During this inspection, I was able to see further examples of completed risk assessments. The pupils were able to tell me of the events that connected to the risk assessments and that precautions, as explained in the risk assessments, had been taken. Senior leaders now check all risk assessments prior to events taking place.
- This standard is now met.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

*Paragraphs 17, 18, 20, 21*

- During this inspection, I checked the single central record, which confirmed that all appropriate checks had been made on staff and school leaders to verify that they are safe to work with children.
- These standards were met at the previous inspection and continue to be met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

*Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)*

- These standards were unmet at the previous material change inspection of January 2019. During the inspection, inspectors identified weaknesses relating to risk assessments, the recording of behavioural incidents and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Therefore, leaders and managers were not ensuring that they were fulfilling their responsibilities and demonstrating good skills and knowledge to ensure that the independent school standards are consistently met and the well-being of pupils is actively promoted.
- School leaders have taken appropriate steps to address some of the weaknesses identified at the full standard inspection in March 2016 and the material change inspection in January 2019.
- However, school leaders are not consistently meeting some independent school standards, as they do not inform pupils about all of the protected characteristics.
- Therefore, these standards remain unmet.

## **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 includes 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	108416
DfE registration number	390/6004
Inspection number	10131845

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	Independent primary school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	5 to 11
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	228
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Nathan Hirsch
Chair	Nathan Hirsch
Headteacher	Rabbi Eli Schleider
Annual fees (day pupils)	Parental contributions
Telephone number	0191 477 2154
Website	none
Email address	<a href="mailto:info@gjps.org.uk">info@gjps.org.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	1–3 March 2016

## Information about this school

- The school is now known as Keser Torah Boys School and accepts up to 250 boys aged between 5 and 11 years. The proprietor is Nathan Hirsch. The Department for Education (DfE) is aware of these changes.
- The school was previously the Gateshead Jewish Primary School, which accepted up to 560 girls and boys aged between 5 and 11 years. The girls are now educated on a separate site in the Keser Girls School. The Keser Girls School opened in June 2019.
- The school follows the principles of the Orthodox Jewish faith.
- The school received a material change inspection in January 2019, when some

independent school standards were unmet.

- The school's last full standard independent school inspection took place in March 2016, when its overall effectiveness was judged to be good.

## 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.
- This was the school's first progress monitoring inspection since the material change inspection in January 2019, when unmet standards were identified.
- The school produced an action plan in June 2019, as requested by the DfE. The action plan was deemed unacceptable in August 2019.
- This inspection took place over one day with one inspector.
- The inspection was conducted without prior notice.
- I met with the headteacher, deputy headteacher, designated safeguarding lead and the proprietor.
- I studied a range of documents relating to the unmet standards. I considered a range of documents relating to safeguarding, such as the policy, school noticeboards, the record of recruitment checks, qualification certificates and staff questionnaires.
- I toured the school, where I spoke to staff and pupils, considered displays of events and observed pupil behaviour.
- I also had formal meetings with three groups of pupils.

## Inspection team

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Jo Sharpe, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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

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

*Standards that were not met at the previous inspection and remain unmet at this inspection*

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

- 5 The standard about the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school is met if the proprietor-
  - 5(b) ensures that principles are actively promoted which-
  - 5(b)(vi) encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act.

#### **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.

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

#### **Part 1. Quality of education provided**

- 2(2)(d)(ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act[9].

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

#### ■ Part 1 Quality of Education provided

- 3(j) does not discriminate against pupils contrary to Part 6 of the 2010 Act.

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

- 9, 9(c) a record is kept of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour.



- 16, 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.

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