

The Family Learning School

Capital House, 47 Rushey Green, Lewisham, London SE6 4AS

Inspection date

21 July 2020

Overall outcome

The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material change is implemented

Main inspection findings

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

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

- The safeguarding policy is comprehensive and includes the most recent statutory guidance. Leaders update the policy regularly to take account of any changes in legislation.
- Staff receive regular safeguarding training. This includes training on how to spot the signs and symptoms of different types of abuse, such as those related to extremism and online grooming. The safeguarding policy sets out clear procedures that staff must follow if they have concerns about a pupil. These include concerns regarding the conduct of adults who work with pupils. All new staff take part in a thorough induction programme to ensure that they understand and follow safeguarding procedures. The induction programme also includes suitable training on first aid, fire safety, and the 'Prevent' duty.
- The safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers on the school's website.

Paragraphs 11, 12, 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- The proprietor has implemented suitable policies related to health and safety, including the identification and management of risks to pupils' welfare.
- Leaders and staff check the premises regularly to make sure that it is safe and well maintained. For example, at the start of each day, staff check that classroom spaces are clean, tidy and free from hazards. Leaders act promptly to resolve any issues that are identified.
- Leaders and staff carry out appropriate checks to ensure that the premises comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The fire alarm system and emergency lighting are tested regularly to make sure that they are in good working order. Emergency evacuation routes are clearly marked and free from obstructions. Leaders and staff ensure that pupils take part in regular fire drills.
- Suitable risk assessments are in place for pupils, both for the school site and external activities. Leaders and staff identify potential risks to pupils' welfare and put in place

appropriate measures to reduce these risks. Leaders adjust staffing ratios and first-aid provision to ensure that arrangements are suitable for each activity.

Paragraph 14

- The proposed staffing arrangements are likely to ensure that pupils are well supervised and kept safe. Currently, pupils are typically taught in small classes of up to 15 pupils. Each class is supervised by at least two members of staff. During off-site activities, classes are supervised by three members of staff. These arrangements are also in place for children in the early years. Leaders plan to maintain these staffing ratios if the material change request is approved. In order to achieve this, leaders have increased the working hours of some part-time staff.
- Leaders have ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met if the request for the material change is approved.

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

All paragraphs

- The proprietor ensures that staff are appointed in accordance with statutory guidance. Leaders have undertaken training in the safer recruitment of staff. The single central record of pre-employment checks is in place and maintained in accordance with the requirements.
- Leaders have ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met if the request for the material change is approved.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

All paragraphs

- The premises are situated within a large commercial building. The school has its own separate, secure entrance with suitable external lighting.
- Classroom spaces are bright, spacious and well maintained. Classrooms are sufficient in size to safely accommodate the proposed increase in the number of pupils. All rooms have appropriate acoustics, internal lighting and ventilation. The outside roof terrace provides a suitable space for pupils to learn and socialise. Children in the early years also benefit from using the roof terrace. Pupils use local outside spaces for play and the teaching of physical education. Leaders carry out appropriate risk assessments for the roof terrace and off-site activities.
- Drinking water is available and clearly labelled. Toilets and washing facilities meet requirements. This includes a supply of hot water at a safe temperature for pupils' use.
- The medical room contains a washbasin and is located close to the toilet facilities. Pupils' medication and first-aid supplies are stored securely. Appropriate records are kept regarding first aid, accidents and pupils' medical needs.
- Leaders have ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met if the request for the material change is approved.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- The proprietor has a clear and ambitious vision for school. Experienced governors have been appointed to support the proprietor to realise this vision. Leaders have a secure understanding of the independent school standards and the requirements of the early years foundation stage. They demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.
- The proprietor and leaders are committed to promoting pupils' well-being. Leaders have put in place suitable policies and procedures related to safeguarding, risk assessment and health and safety. Leaders have planned carefully to make sure that the school can safely accommodate the increase in pupil numbers if the material change request is approved.
- Leaders have ensured that the standards in this part are likely to be met if the request for the material change is approved.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

- If the material change is approved, it is likely that the number of children in the early years will increase. Leaders have a good understanding of providing early years education. They have ensured that staff have suitable experience and qualifications. Staffing ratios and first-aid arrangements meet requirements.
- The statutory welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage are likely to be met if the request for the material change is approved.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

School details

Unique reference number	147168
DfE registration number	209/6006
Inspection number	10154832

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Independent day school
School status	Independent school
Proprietor	The Family Learning Group Ltd
Chair	Padraic Fahy (chair of the governing body)
Headteacher	Julie Dunford
Annual fees (day pupils)	£7,500
Telephone number	07717 308158
Website	www.familylearningschool.com
Email address	office@familylearningschool.com
Date of previous standard inspection	Not previously inspected

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	3 to 11	Not applicable	Not applicable
Number of pupils on the school roll	45	60	60

Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Not applicable

Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	Up to 45	Up to 60
Number of part-time pupils	Up to 45	Up to 60
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	None	Not applicable
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	None	Not applicable
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	None	Not applicable

Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	2	2
Number of part-time teaching staff	7	7
Number of staff in the welfare provision	3	3

Information about this school

- The Family Learning School is registered as an independent day school for boys and girls aged from three to 11 years. It is located in the London Borough of Lewisham.
- The school opened in September 2019. There are currently 36 pupils on roll. Pupils attend on a full- or part-time basis. There are currently no pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The school aims to provide personalised education in order to develop and celebrate the unique potential of each pupil.

- The school was founded by The Family Learning Group Limited. The company has two directors. One director is also the school's headteacher.
- The school's previous inspection was a pre-registration visit carried out by Ofsted in August 2019. The pre-registration inspection found that the school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens. Since opening in September 2019, the school has not had its first standard inspection.

Information about this inspection

- The inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) following the school's request to increase the capacity of the school from 45 to 60 pupils. The DfE requested that Ofsted consider the relevant requirements of the independent school standards in Part 3, Part 4, Part 5 and Part 8. This is the school's first material change inspection.
- The inspection was commissioned by the DfE during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic of 2020. Some of the inspection was conducted remotely. This was to ensure that the inspection was conducted in accordance with the most recent government guidance related to COVID-19.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, who is also a member of the proprietor body. The inspector visited the school to check the safety and suitability of the premises. Documentation related to safeguarding, the suitability of staff and the health and safety of the premises was evaluated. The evaluation took place remotely and during the on-site visit. The inspector also looked at the school's website and held a telephone discussion with the chair of the governing body. No pupils or staff were present during the inspector's visit to the premises.

Inspection team

Sarah Murphy, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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