

Beis Medrash Elyon

233 West Hendon Broadway, West Hendon, London NW9 7DH

Inspection dates

23 September 2020

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), 16, 16(a), 16(b)

- Leaders organised a residential visit for 73 pupils in Llandudno, Wales for two nights in July 2020. They did this, in their words, 'to improve pupils' mental health after a long period of lockdown'. However, this was in clear breach of government guidance in place at the time of the visit, which advised 'against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by educational settings'.
- Leaders report that they organised pupils into year-group 'bubbles' and ensured that there was no mixing between these groups throughout the trip. The planning for this trip was detailed and included a number of health and safety checks. However, the risk to pupils of catching COVID-19 (coronavirus) or transmitting it to others unknowingly was not given sufficient consideration within those health and safety checks. In allowing the trip to go ahead in breach of government guidance, leaders failed to put safeguarding at the front and centre of their considerations.
- The school's child protection and safeguarding policy draws on guidance from the local authority. However, the policy references the September 2018 version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. It has not been updated in line with the 2019 or 2020 statutory guidance. Despite this, leaders understand recent changes, for instance in guidance related to peer-on-peer abuse. Staff spoken to were able to explain adequately what they would do in these instances.
- The school's overall risk assessment policy is dated August 2019 and does not take account of issues relating to COVID-19. Individual risk assessments for school trips prior to March 2020 showed appropriate action being taken to assess and reduce risk. However, the trip to Llandudno in July 2020 did not follow government guidance and, consequently, put pupils at risk. These parts of the welfare, health and safety standards are not met.
- The school does not meet all the independent school standards that were checked (listed above).

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

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

- Leaders have not ensured that they are compliant with all the independent school standards checked during this inspection. The standards have not been met consistently.
- In allowing the residential visit to Llandudno, leaders failed to follow the guidance issued by the Secretary of State. As a result, pupils were placed under unnecessary risk, which could have had serious consequences.
- The school does not meet all of the independent school standards that were checked (listed above).

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. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	140492
DfE registration number	302/6007
Inspection number	10160508

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	Jewish boys' school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	73
Number of part-time pupils	None
Proprietor	Anthony Adler
Chair	A Morrelle
Headteachers	Rabbi Y Lang Rabbi Z Lebovicz
Annual fees (day pupils)	£6,000
Telephone number	0208 203 8240
Website	None
Email address	admin@elyon.org.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	2 April 2019

Information about this school

- Beis Medrash Elyon is based in north west London and is registered to admit up to 100 boys between the ages of 11 and 16 years.
- The school was judged to be inadequate in June 2018. It did not meet all the independent school standards that were checked at its last progress monitoring inspection in April 2019.
- All pupils are from Orthodox Jewish backgrounds.

- There are no pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, or education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- The school does not use any alternative provision.
- The school is led by two headteachers, one responsible for the religious (Kodesh) curriculum and the other for secular studies (Chol).
- A governing body oversees the school's strategic leadership.
- The school does not have a website, but all the required policies are available to parents and carers on request.

Information about this inspection

- This emergency inspection was prompted by information received by the regulation authority, which raised concerns about a potential breach of government guidance about residential visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. These concerns were considered during this inspection.
- The inspection was commissioned by the Department for Education as the regulation authority.
- The inspection was conducted without notice and in accordance with the most recent government guidance related to COVID-19.
- The inspector was asked to report against some of the regulations contained within Parts 3 and 8 of the independent school standards.
- The inspector held discussions with the two headteachers, the proprietor, three members of staff and six pupils.
- The inspector reviewed key documents and policies related to safeguarding and the school's risk assessment procedures.

Inspection team

Nasim Butt, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Annex. Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school does not meet the following independent school standards

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.
- 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 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.

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