

Al Khair Primary School

61/63 Oak Way Green, Off Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 8LA

Inspection dates

13 October 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), 9, 9(a), 9(b), 9(c), 11, 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

- At the previous inspection in June 2019 these standards were met. The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned this inspection because of a complaint relating to the welfare, health and safety of pupils and children in the early years.
- The school has a safeguarding policy. Staff have received training on the most recent government requirements. However, the proprietor and leaders have not updated the safeguarding policy to reflect these requirements.
- The proprietor and leaders do not ensure that children in the early years are safe. They have failed to identify some risks in the outdoor area. They have not reduced the risks of which they are aware. Therefore, the statutory safeguarding and welfare requirements for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) are not met.
- Health and safety arrangements are not effective. Leaders do not assess risks suitably well. They have not completed risk assessments for the premises nor for the full range of activities in which pupils are involved. Where risk assessments exist, they are variable in quality. They identify some risks but not others which could be anticipated. Leaders do not record the necessary actions to minimise risk in the detail needed for staff to know how to keep pupils safe, for example on educational visits.
- Pupils behave well. They move sensibly around the school and follow adults' instructions. The school's behaviour policy outlines sanctions for poor behaviour. However, staff are unaware of what these sanctions are. They adopt individual and varying approaches to managing pupils' behaviour. These approaches do not follow the school's behaviour policy.
- Leaders have recently introduced a new system for recording behaviour sanctions. However, some staff are not using this system.
- These standards are not met.

Paragraphs 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15

- At the previous inspection in June 2019 these standards were met.
- Staff supervise pupils indoors and outdoors appropriately. There is no evidence of bullying in the school. Pupils say that other pupils are kind to each other. They know to tell an adult if bullying occurs. Pupils are confident that adults deal promptly with any concerns they raise.
- There is a suitable first aid policy in place and procedures are clear. An appropriate number of staff are qualified in paediatric first aid. Staff maintain records of accidents and the first aid they administer. Fire safety adheres to government guidelines.
- The proprietor ensures that admissions and attendance registers are maintained in line with regulatory requirements.
- These standards continue to be met.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Paragraph 25

- This standard was judged to be met at the time of the previous inspection. The DfE commissioned this inspection because of a complaint relating to the welfare, health and safety of children in the early years.
- Leaders have not maintained the early years outdoor area to a standard where children are safe. There is no risk assessment in place for this area. The grass area is poorly maintained. There are trip hazards that have not been made safe. Leaders' daily checks of the outdoor area are not effective in identifying risks and keeping children safe. For example, leaders have failed to notice that there is broken glass in an area where children play.
- This standard is not met.

Part 6. Provision of information

Paragraphs 32(1), 32(1)(c)

- As a routine part of the inspection, the inspector checked the availability of the school's safeguarding policy.
- Parents can request a copy of the safeguarding policy by clicking on a link on the school's website. They are also able to request a paper copy from the school office.
- This standard is met.

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 and leaders have not ensured that all the independent school standards are met. The early years outdoor area is poorly maintained and poses a risk to children's safety. Leaders do not identify and manage risks appropriately. They do not ensure that health and safety and risk assessment policies are implemented effectively. As a result, there are concerns about the welfare, health and safety of pupils and children in the early years.
- All the standards in this part are not met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- The school has a suitable accessibility plan. It is clear how leaders will improve access to the curriculum, the physical environment and written information for pupils, staff and visitors.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

- At the previous inspection in June 2019 the statutory requirements of the EYFS were met. The DfE commissioned this inspection because of concerns about the safeguarding and welfare of children in the early years.
- The proprietor and leaders have not taken all the necessary steps to keep children safe in the early years. They have failed to identify some of the risks in the outdoor play area. These include broken glass, rusty nails, large thistles and thorns and a raised manhole cover. At the time of the inspection, leaders had identified the trip hazard posed by raised concrete blocks. However, they had not acted to deal with this risk and children were using the area. Leaders stopped children using the area during the inspection when the risks were pointed out to them.
- Leaders have assessed the risks associated with some classroom-based activities, for example water play and using scissors. However, some of the actions that risk assessments include to mitigate risk are not appropriate, for example putting detergent in the water tray to prevent children from drinking it.
- The safeguarding and welfare requirements, 3.2, 3.54, 3.64, of the EYFS are not 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. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	141001
DfE registration number	333/6006
Inspection number	10161684

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	Other independent school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	41
Number of part-time pupils	5
Proprietor	Qasim Rashid Ahmed
Headteacher	Mr Sajad Akram
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,376
Telephone number	0121 544 2361
Website	www.alkhairschool.org.uk
Email address	admin.oldbury@alkhairschool.org.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	7–9 November 2018

Information about this school

- Al Khair Primary School is a Muslim day school for boys and girls. It is registered for 70 pupils aged two to 11 years. At the time of the inspection, there were no two-year-olds on the school roll.
- A new headteacher took up post in August 2020.
- The school's last standard inspection took place on 7 to 9 November 2018. A progress monitoring inspection took place on 26 June 2019. The school was judged to meet all the independent school standards that were checked during the inspection.

Information about this inspection

- The inspection was commissioned by the DfE because of a complaint relating to pupils' welfare, health and safety and the early years.
- The inspection focused on provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety and the safeguarding and welfare requirements for the early years foundation stage. Emergency inspections are normally completed without notice. However, in line with the interim phase guidance, the lead inspector telephoned the school to announce this inspection 30 minutes before they arrived at the school.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, the designated safeguarding lead and other staff. She spoke informally to pupils. The inspector spoke with the proprietor on the telephone.
- The inspector took a tour of the school with the headteacher. She reviewed a range of information about the school, including: safeguarding policies and other related information; the school's single central record; school policies; risk assessments; admissions and attendance registers; and information about health and safety checks.
- Before the inspection, the inspector checked the school's website and looked at information on the internet.
- There were insufficient responses to Ofsted's Parent View questionnaire to consider this as part of the inspection. The inspector did not speak with parents or carers.

Inspection team

Claire Jones, 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.
- 9 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor promotes good behaviour amongst pupils by ensuring that–
 - 9(a) a written behaviour policy is drawn up that, amongst other matters, sets out the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupil misbehaviour;
 - 9(b) the policy is implemented effectively; and
 - 9(c) a record is kept of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.

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.

Early Years Foundation Stage

■ Safeguarding and welfare requirements

- 3.2 Providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. The requirements in this section explain what early years providers must do to: safeguard children; ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children; promote good health; manage behaviour; and maintain records, policies and procedures.
- 3.54 Providers must ensure that their premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children cared for and the activities provided on the premises. Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation (including fire safety and hygiene requirements).
- 3.64 Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks⁵³. Providers must determine where it is helpful to make some written risk assessments in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how they are managing risks if asked by parents and/or carers or inspectors. Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.

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