

# Lubavitch Yeshiva Ketanah of London

1117 Finchley Road, London NW11 0QB

**Inspection date**

8 March 2021

**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(1), 2(1)(a), 2(2), 2(2)(a), 2(2)(h)*

- At the monitoring inspection in December 2019, these standards were unmet because the school's schemes of work were too variable. Although plans for the topics to be taught in English, mathematics and science were suitably detailed, this was not the case in other secular subjects. In subjects such as music, broad aims were supported by lists of topics. However, there was no information about how the topics were ordered, including what subject knowledge and skills would be taught and when. As a result, teachers and leaders were not able to explain what it means for a pupil to do well in these subjects.
- A new leader for secular subjects started in September 2020. This leader has worked on the subject plans for English and mathematics. These are not yet complete and need to be developed to take account of the different starting points and needs of pupils. There are currently no plans in place for the other secular subjects. It is not clear how leaders intend for pupils to learn and make progress in most secular subjects.
- The curriculum policy states that the school offers a broad range of secular subjects to pupils. However, not all these subjects are currently taught. For example, pupils have no opportunity to study technology or creative subjects, and not all pupils study science. As a result, the school no longer meets standard 2(2)(a) because pupils do not have access to a broad curriculum. This is partly due to the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and its impact on teaching staff.
- Standards 2(1), 2(1)(a), 2(2) and 2(2)(h) are not met. Additionally, standard 2(2)(a), which had been met at the previous inspection, is now unmet.

#### *Paragraphs 3, 3(a), 3(c), 3(d)*

- At the monitoring inspection in December 2019, these standards were unmet because staff did not use the baseline assessments in English, mathematics and science to plan for pupils' learning. Pupils' books also showed that the curriculum for reading and writing was not implemented well enough. Furthermore, although leaders were beginning to

make better use of assessment in mathematics and science, this was not the case in the other secular subjects.

- Leaders have continued to develop the baseline assessments in English, mathematics and science so that they can assess pupils' starting points. There are also plans in place for pupils to be assessed again to identify what pupils have remembered and learned. However, the information from assessments is not yet used effectively to plan pupils' learning. Moreover, most pupils are not currently being taught science or most other secular subjects apart from English, mathematics and history. Pupils are not developing their knowledge and skills across a range of subjects.
- Teaching is not yet planned in all subjects. In the subjects where leaders have planned the topics to be taught, they have not yet adapted these plans for pupils' different needs and abilities.
- The school does not meet 3, 3(a), 3(c), and 3(d) of the independent school standards in this part.

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

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

- At the monitoring inspection in December 2019, these standards were unmet because leaders had not ensured that potential risks on the premises had been identified and addressed. There were insufficient protocols in place to ensure the well-being of staff and pupils.
- Leaders have addressed the issues with the security of the premises. The site is secure and visitors can only gain access by speaking to a member of staff and following a signing in procedure.
- The school has a suitable safeguarding policy that takes account of current government requirements. The safeguarding policy is available to parents and carers on request and is given to all new parents. All staff receive regular safeguarding training. Leaders with designated responsibility for safeguarding are also up to date with the latest training. Leaders and staff know who to report concerns to within the school and at the local authority. Pupils know who they should speak to if they have concerns. They are confident they will be listened to.
- The school now meets the requirements of the independent school standards in this part.

### Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

*Paragraph 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b)*

- The previous monitoring inspection found that leaders and governors had not ensured that all the independent school standards were met. Leaders had made limited progress in tackling the standards that were unmet at the previous inspection. Leaders had appointed an experienced head of secular subjects, and there were some early signs of impact in relation to the teaching of mathematics and science. However, there remained a lot more work to do to improve the breadth and depth of the secular subjects.
- Leaders have not made enough progress in tackling the other standards that were unmet at the previous inspection. Leaders have once again appointed a new head of secular subjects, but it is not yet possible to see the impact of this appointment.

Currently, the secular curriculum is too narrow and does not provide the range of subjects stated in the curriculum policy. The subjects that are taught are not yet fully planned and teachers do not plan for the different abilities of pupils.

- Some standards that were unmet at the previous monitoring inspection remain unmet. An additional standard that was met at the previous inspection is now unmet.
- Leaders have now ensured that the standards regarding the welfare, health and safety of pupils are now met. The safeguarding policy is available for parents on request.
- The school does not meet the requirements of the independent school standards in this part.

## **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 included 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.

### **The school now meets 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.

#### **Part 6. Provision of information**

- 32(1)(c) particulars of the arrangements for meeting the standard contained in paragraph 7 are published on the school's internet website or, where no such website exists, are provided to parents on request.

## School details

Unique reference number	144727
DfE registration number	302/6012
Inspection number	10161956

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	13 to 16
Gender of pupils	Boys
Gender of pupils in the sixth form	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	23
Of which, number on roll in sixth form	0
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Chabad Lubavitch UK
Chair	Yitzchok Sufrin
Headteacher	Rabbi Moishe Zavdi
Annual fees (day pupils)	£4,500
Telephone number	020 3409 1853
Website	None
Email address	office@mechina.co.uk
Date of previous standard inspection	5–7 June 2018

## Information about this school

- The school is an Orthodox Jewish independent day school for boys. The school was established in the 1960s and was previously known as 'The Mechina'. The school has been based in the London Borough of Barnet since 2010.

- Leaders advised that the proprietor has changed to Chabad Lubavitch UK. They informed the inspector that the former proprietor and chair, Yitzchok Sufrin, is now the chair of Chabad Lubavitch UK.
- The school occupies buildings adjacent to a synagogue in Golders Green, in the London Borough of Barnet. The premises have been adapted for school use. The school uses Hampstead Heath for physical education and occasionally for outdoor recreation.
- The school is registered for up to 60 boys between the ages of 13 to 16. There are currently 23 pupils on roll.
- A new leader of the secular curriculum (Chol) was appointed in September 2020.
- The school does not use any alternative provision.

## 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 third monitoring inspection since the full standard inspection in June 2018. The inspection took place without notice. The previous progress monitoring inspections in July 2019 and December 2019 found that some independent school standards remained unmet. The school submitted an action plan to the registration authority in February 2020 to show how it planned to meet these standards. The registration authority deemed the action plan to be unsatisfactory in March 2020.
- The current inspection focused on parts 1, 3 and 8 of the independent school standards.
- The inspector held discussions with the headteacher, the head of the secular curriculum (Chol), the school administrator and a member of the proprietary board.
- The inspector talked with pupils, scrutinised a sample of their work and visited a lesson.
- The inspector scrutinised a range of documentation relating to safeguarding and the curriculum. This included schemes of work for English and mathematics.

## Inspection team

Mark Smith, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

## 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 1. Quality of education provided

- 2(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if–
  - 2(1)(a) the proprietor ensures that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively; and
- 2(2) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(1)(a), the matters are–
  - 2(2)(h) that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress; and
- 3 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school–
  - 3(a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;
  - 3(c) involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time; and
  - 3(d) shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons.

#### 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; and
  - 34(1)(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

*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) For the purposes of paragraph 2(1)(a), the matters are–
  - 2(2)(a) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education.



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