

Homeschool

49 Manifold Way, Sandwell, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 0GB

Inspection date

23 March 2021

Overall outcome

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

Main inspection findings

- The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned Ofsted to conduct a progress monitoring inspection of Homeschool to report on whether the school now meets the independent school standards. At the previous monitoring inspection in January 2020, the school failed to meet a number of the standards in Part 1 (Quality of Education), Part 3 (Welfare, health and safety of pupils), Part 5 (Premises and accommodation at schools), Part 6 (Provision of information) and Part 8 (Quality of leadership in and management of schools).
- Ofsted was unable to complete the commission for this inspection as the proprietor refused to allow inspectors to enter the school premises. Ofsted issued the proprietor with a letter notifying him that refusal to allow the inspection to continue is unlawful and amounts to the criminal offence of obstruction under section 110(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.
- Homeschool is currently under a restriction not to admit new pupils to the school. This restriction came into effect on 3 August 2020. The proprietor informed the lead inspector that there were no pupils present at the school. However, inspectors were unable to confirm this as they were prevented from entering the school premises.
- The proprietor informed the lead inspector that the school is currently closed, and he does not intend to reopen it to new pupils until September 2021 at the earliest. He had also notified the DfE of this prior to the inspection. He informed the lead inspector that the main teaching classroom was currently being used as a foodbank distribution centre. Inspectors were able to confirm that the foodbank was advertised by signage on the front door of the school address. However, inspectors were not able to confirm that the school was closed as they were prevented from accessing the building.
- The school's website does not state that the school is currently not operating. The website continues to have an admissions page advertising places to prospective parents.
- As the proprietor did not allow the inspection to continue, the school is now failing to meet the requirement to provide any information reasonably requested with an inspection under section 109 of the 2008 Act (32(1)(g)).

- The school website contains a number of policies that are dated 14 February 2020. These have not been updated. Therefore, the published safeguarding policy does not meet statutory requirements as it does not take account of changes introduced in September 2020 or January 2021. Without evidence to the contrary, it is therefore reasonable to judge that requirement 7(b) is now not met.
- The school website now contains all previously published inspection reports as required by the independent school standards. Therefore, requirement 32(1)(d) is now met.
- The proprietor did not provide inspectors with any evidence to demonstrate that previously unmet standards in Parts 1, 3 and 5 are now met.
- The standards in Part 8 remain unmet as the limited evidence that inspectors could gain demonstrates that the proprietor continues to fail to meet all of the independent school standards.

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

School details

Unique reference number	141501
DfE registration number	333/6007
Inspection number	10180148

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 day school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	5 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	Unable to ascertain
Number of part-time pupils	Unable to ascertain
Proprietor	Colin Rankine
Headteacher	Colin Rankine
Annual fees (day pupils)	Unable to ascertain
Telephone number	07500 416635
Website	www.homeschoolsocialenterprise.org
Email address	homeschool@live.org.uk
Dates of previous standard inspection	20–21 November 2018

Information about this school

- Homeschool is part of Homeschool Social Enterprise, a registered charity.
- The school was registered with the DfE in October 2014. The school is registered to provide education for up to five pupils between five and 11 years old.
- The school has been inspected six times since its registration in 2014. It has only met the independent school standards checked at an inspection once during this period of time. The school has never been judged to be any better than inadequate by Ofsted.
- The school has a Christian religious ethos.

Information about this inspection

- This progress monitoring inspection was commissioned by the DfE to report on whether the school now meets the independent school standards.
- The lead inspector notified the proprietor of the inspection at 8.45am. The lead inspector also spoke to the proprietor on the telephone at 10.24am and 10.45am.
- Inspectors observed the outside of the premises. They did not witness any pupils entering or leaving the premises. However, they were unable to confirm that there were no pupils on site at the time of the inspection.

Inspection team

Philippa Darley, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Jonathan Dyer

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(b) arrangements that are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Part 6. Provision of information

- 32(1) The standard about the provision of information by the school is met if the proprietor ensures that–
 - 32(1)(g) any information reasonably requested in connection with an inspection under section 109 of the 2008 Act which is required for the purposes of the inspection is provided to the body conducting the inspection and that body is given access to the school's admission and attendance registers.

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; and
 - 34(1)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

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

Part 6. Provision of information

- 32(1) The standard about the provision of information by the school is met if the proprietor ensures that–
 - 32(1)(d) following an inspection under section 108 or 109 of the 2008 Act, a copy of the report of the inspection (if it has been sent to the proprietor) is published and maintained on the school's internet website, and provided to the parents of each registered pupil, by any date specified by the body who conducted the inspection.

Inspectors were prevented from accessing the school premises. Consequently, they were unable to check if the school now meets the following requirements of the independent school standards.

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(1)(b) the written policy, plans and schemes of work–
 - 2(1)(b)(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan.
- 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(b) fosters in pupils self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves;
 - 3(c) involves well-planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;
 - 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;
 - 3(e) demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught;
 - 3(f) utilises effectively classroom resources of a good quality, quantity and range; and
 - 3(g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress.

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.
- 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.
- 12 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 15 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.
- 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.
- 16 The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that suitable outdoor space is provided in order to enable–
 - 29(1)(a) physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and
 - 29(1)(b) pupils to play outside.

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