

Education and boarding inspection summary for Darul Uloom Al Arabiya Al Islamiya

Holcombe Hall, Holcombe Old Road, Holcombe, Nr. Bury, Lancashire BL8 4NG
Inspection dates: 25 to 27 January 2022

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the boarding provision is requires improvement

What is it like to attend this school?

- Pupils enjoy coming to this school. They work hard and are keen to learn. Pupils study a wide range of secular subjects in addition to their Islamic studies. They live up to the high expectations that leaders and teachers have for them and achieve well.
- Pupils feel safe in school. They behave well and show great maturity, especially at times of prayer. Pupils move around the school in an orderly manner. They warmly welcome visitors to the school. Pupils say that bullying does occur in school, but it is rare. They are confident that staff will act quickly to stop any such behaviour.
- Pupils speak enthusiastically about the varied range of activities they experience beyond the academic curriculum. They enjoy the regular football and table tennis tournaments and coding club. Pupils eagerly anticipate their end of year reward trip to Blackpool. They also benefit from visits to cultural venues, such as museums and local places of worship. Pupils have opportunities to participate in community events such as helping to pick up litter. Pupils from other schools in the locality visit the school to learn about the Islamic faith and culture.

The inspectors made **three** recommendations to help the school improve, covering the curriculum, the professional development of teachers and the oversight and accountability of leadership

The school **does not meet the independent school standards** relating to the standard 5 of the national minimum standards for boarding schools, regarding accommodation and those relating to leadership and management.

What is it like to board at this school?

- Children build trusted and secure relationships with the adults who are caring for them. They say that they are happy at school and enjoy the boarding experience. Children told the inspectors, 'We are all one big family.' They value their friendships and the strong sense of community.
- Children are treated with dignity and respect. Children new to boarding are well supported, including those children who experience homesickness. The sensitive support that these children receive helps them to settle into school.
- Children make good progress in their educational and personal development. Staff are ambitious for children and support them to do well. Boundaries are clear and expectations of behaviour high. Behaviour around the school was observed to be exemplary during the inspection.
- Children said that they can talk about any concerns or worries that they might have. However, there is little evidence of children's views being sought about their boarding experience.
- Leaders prioritise the needs of children but they do not consistently follow their own policies and procedures, as illustrated by the failure to identify and act on two GP-identified health risks. Furthermore, scant recording does not provide enough evidence that children's healthcare is being managed effectively.
- Children enjoy the educational and recreational activities on offer, but community activities are limited in scope due to the pandemic. The leadership team has recognised this as an area for improvement and plans to rectify this.
- Some improvements were noted to the boarding provision, including improvements to the two games rooms and plastering and painting of the corridors. However, one national minimum standard remains unmet. Inspectors found that some bathrooms were cold and dirty, a minority of door closers did not work effectively, and in three bedrooms window closers were missing. A number of these shortfalls were rectified immediately. That said, these shortfalls demonstrate ineffective monitoring by leaders to ensure a timely response to maintenance needs that arise.

The school **does not meet the national minimum standards for boarding schools** relating to the accommodation provided for boarders, the implementation of

policies relating to the care of sick or injured pupils and the leadership and management of the boarding facility.

The inspectors made **two recommendations** to help the school improve, covering the range of choice of activities for boarders outside of teaching time and provision for pupils to contribute their views to the operation of the boarding provision.

View the full inspection report for the education provision:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/105372>

View the full inspection report for the boarding provision:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/1/SC008476>



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