

Inspection of Redstone Academy for Girls

466 Moseley Road, Birmingham B12 9AN

Inspection dates: 21 to 23 June 2022

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Not previously inspected

Does the school meet the independent school standards? **Yes**

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils flourish at this school. Staff are determined that pupils learn well and develop academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. They set a high bar for pupils, with no ceiling on what pupils can achieve. Pupils reflect these expectations. They are eager to learn and want to do well. Classrooms are calm and productive, with staff and pupils working together.

Staff care about their pupils, and all are proud of their school. They get to know each pupil well and provide constant encouragement and support. Pupils are polite, courteous and interested in each other and the wider world. Pupils attend well because they want to come to school. Staff and pupils speak enthusiastically about the school as a 'family'. Pupils know that sometimes people fall out with each other. However, pupils trust that staff will intervene to help put things right again.

Leaders know how important it is to prepare pupils for life beyond school. They do not shy away from talking to pupils about sensitive issues. Pupils learn about these both in the context of modern Britain and their faith. All staff want pupils to be able to fulfil their potential as ambitious young Muslim women in a changing world.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The headteacher leads the school with integrity, determination and compassion. Leaders have developed rigorous systems to ensure that the school consistently meets the independent school standards. Leaders know that the school can still be better, and they are always striving to improve. They are highly reflective and are not afraid to make changes if they will benefit pupils. Staff share leaders' vision and embrace any changes because they too want the best for pupils. Staff feel well supported by leaders. All work together towards a common aim.

Leaders provide pupils with an education that matches the breadth of the national curriculum. Pupils learn a broad range of subjects at key stage 3. Leaders have put the English Baccalaureate at the heart of the curriculum at key stage 4. All pupils work towards achieving GCSE physics, biology and chemistry and learn a modern foreign language and a humanity.

In each subject, leaders have thought about the knowledge and skills that pupils need to learn. They have considered the order in which pupils should learn new things thoroughly so that pupils build their understanding over time. Leaders have adapted the curriculum in response to the pandemic. For instance, in Year 9, leaders have allocated time to revisit important learning from previous years. However, pupils' intended learning is set out in broad terms. Therefore, it is open to individual teachers' interpretation. This means that it is not always clear which are the critical elements that pupils must know and remember. Leaders are already taking action to address this.

Leaders have embraced research about the science of learning. They have shared this with teachers. Most teachers use this well, for instance to check pupils' understanding in lessons. They pose questions to help pupils constantly recall and review their learning. This prompts discussion and means that teachers can address any misconceptions that pupils may have. In most cases, teachers and pupils take advantage of these opportunities.

Pupils complete regular assessments in each subject. These require pupils to draw on everything they have learned, not just the most recent work. Teachers use this information to fill any gaps in pupils' knowledge through review lessons. Leaders make regular checks on pupils' overall progress. They identify any pupils that need extra help with English or mathematics. Staff then provide pupils with the effective support they need promptly.

Leaders know that some teachers need further subject-specific training. They have taken action to address this, for example by ensuring staff are members of subject associations. However, this work is at an early stage.

Staff promote a love of reading. Leaders have made sure that there are opportunities for pupils to read. These range from regular reading in form time, to book clubs and visits to the local library. However, leaders have not drawn this work together to check that all pupils are reading widely and often. This means that some pupils are missing out on the enjoyment that can be gained from a good book.

The personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum is comprehensive. Pupils learn about a wide range of issues, from individual liberty and democracy to an understanding of other faiths and religions and looking after their physical and mental health. Leaders address difficult issues with sensitivity and thought, exploring pupils' understanding and developing their empathy.

Careers education is central to the PSHE curriculum. Staff encourage pupils to be ambitious about what they can achieve when they leave school. All pupils complete work experience in Year 10, and a variety of professionals visit the school to talk about their work. Leaders provide pupils with lots of information about their options when they leave school and the careers they can ultimately pursue.

Members of the proprietor body have ensured that there is a clear vision for the school. They want the best for pupils. They provide support and challenge to leaders and ensure the school has a strong commitment to promoting equality. The school meets its duties under schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders have ensured that staff are alert to the signs that could indicate a pupil is at risk of harm. Staff complete regular training on issues such as radicalisation and female genital mutilation. Staff understand their responsibility to report any concern,

no matter how small, and they know how to do this. Safeguarding leaders take prompt action when a concern is raised.

Leaders have designed the PSHE curriculum to help raise awareness among pupils of the specific safeguarding risks they face, and what to do if they have any worries.

What does the school need to do to improve? (Information for the school and proprietor)

- The curriculum does not define the foundational knowledge that pupils need to know and remember in each subject. As a result, leaders are reliant on individual teachers' expertise to identify the most important knowledge within the broader themes set out in the curriculum. However, leaders are in the process of bringing this about. For this reason, the transitional arrangements have been applied. Leaders should ensure that all teachers have a detailed understanding of the specific knowledge that it is most important for pupils to know at each stage of their learning and how this ties into what they have learned before.
- Teachers' subject-expertise knowledge is not consistently strong. Consequently, some teachers do not know how to help pupils to overcome the challenges in their subject. Leaders should ensure that they continue to boost teachers' understanding of how to help pupils learn effectively in their subject.
- Leaders do not have a strategic approach to developing pupils' wider love of reading. This means that some pupils 'slip through the net' and do not read as often or as widely as they should. Leaders should ensure that they coordinate the work already being done so that they can help all pupils to find books that they can enjoy.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the provider and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

School details

Unique reference number	148157
DfE registration number	330/6136
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10220438
Type of school	Other independent school
School category	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	63
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Redstone Educational Services Ltd
Chair	Matthew Williams
Headteacher	Saadat Rasool
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,940 (key stage 3) £3,420 (key stage 4)
Telephone number	0121 448 7933
Website	www.redstoneacademy.com
Email address	headteacher@redstoneacademy.com
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected

Information about this school

- The school had a pre-registration inspection on 24 March 2021, when it was found to be likely to meet all the independent school standards. The school opened as Redstone Academy for Girls in September 2021. Prior to this, the school was called Redstone Educational Academy, a co-educational independent school that was operating as two single-sex schools.
- The chair of the proprietor body took up his post in May 2021.
- The school does not use any alternative provision.
- The school has an Islamic ethos.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors carried out this inspection under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. The purpose of the inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

The school meets the independent school standards. These are the requirements set out in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation.

- Inspectors met with the headteacher and other senior leaders. They met with two members of the proprietor body, including its chair.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in English, science, art and PSHE. For each deep dive, inspectors met with subject leaders to discuss the curriculum, visited lessons, spoke to teachers, met with pupils and looked at pupils' work. Inspectors also reviewed curriculum planning for history and mathematics and visited information and communication technology and history lessons.
- Inspectors looked at records and spoke to staff in relation to behaviour, bullying, attendance and safeguarding.
- Inspectors met with members of staff individually and in groups and spoke to pupils formally and informally at various points during the inspection. Inspectors took account of responses to staff surveys, as well as Ofsted Parent View.
- Inspectors reviewed safeguarding arrangements by checking the school's approach to staff recruitment, scrutinising policy documents and meeting with the headteacher, who is the designated safeguarding lead.
- Inspectors scrutinised policies and documents relating to the independent school standards. The lead inspector toured the premises with the deputy headteacher and site manager.

- Inspectors spoke with pupils at breaktime and lunchtime.

Inspection team

Ian Tustian, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Sarah Ashley

Ofsted Inspector

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