

# Blooming Tree Pre Prep School

Swarn House, 296 High Street, Acton, London W3 9BJ

**Inspection date**

7 September 2022

**Overall outcome**

**The school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards if the material changes relating to the school provision are implemented**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 1. Quality of education provided

#### *Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4*

- Leaders have carefully adapted the curriculum and assessment policies in order to meet the range of complex learning needs of pupils aged eight to 11. The school's curriculum is ambitious. Leaders provide teaching in all subjects of the national curriculum. Thorough subject planning considers the needs of pupils who have education, health and care (EHC) plans for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The plans take detailed account of pupils' different ages, abilities and interests.
- Programmes for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and relationships and sex education (RSE) have been updated. Both are likely to be appropriate for older pupils. These programmes include appropriate coverage of British values, equality and relationships. Leaders place an overriding focus on developing pupils' independence and their social and communication skills.
- Leaders have considered current RSE guidance and have ensured that policies are compliant with statutory requirements.
- Leaders have a credible plan to grow the staff team and to assure the quality of education provided to pupils, including pupils aged eight to 11. Leaders have well-developed procedures to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

### Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

#### *Paragraph 5*

- The school's PSHE education curriculum has been extended to include opportunities to teach pupils about how to behave safely, keep healthy, be a good friend and help others. All pupils are taught repeatedly about safe and appropriate touch as well as how to manage potential dangers and risks. Adapted plans for older pupils identify clearly how leaders intend to develop pupils' social and communication skills further.

The school's PSHE education and RSE plans cover the teaching of differences, including learning about the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010.

- The planned programme for religious education has also been extended to meet the needs of pupils aged eight to 11. It is likely to ensure that pupils will be taught about a range of religions, faiths and cultures. The programme is likely to further encourage mutual respect and tolerance of pupils' own and other cultures and the faiths and beliefs of others.
- The school's curriculum policy continues to be clear that no member of staff may promote partisan views and that balanced points of view must always be presented in the teaching of any political topic. The importance of impartiality features in the induction programme for new staff.
- The independent school standard in this part is likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

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

*Paragraphs 7, 11, 12, 14 and 16*

- The available evidence suggests that there is a strong safeguarding culture in this school for particularly vulnerable pupils. The school's safeguarding policy reflects the latest 'Keeping children safe in education' (September 2022) statutory guidance. Leaders are fully aware of their duties and carry them out with diligence. Leaders have kept their enhanced safeguarding training up to date and trained all staff accordingly.
- The school is compliant with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. All actions identified on the latest external fire risk assessment have been completed. All the required fire safety checks are completed and are logged.
- The school's health and safety, and risk assessment policies are implemented well. The appropriate risk assessments have been updated in light of the extra floor added to the school's premises. Leaders' work to minimise any risks that pupils may encounter is effective.
- The supervision of pupils is likely to continue to be suitable. All pupils will receive at least one-to-one support.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

### Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

*All paragraphs*

- The school's recruitment process is rigorous. All the required vetting checks on the adults working at the school have been completed. They are recorded accurately on the single central record.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

## Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

### *All paragraphs*

- Leaders plan to close the Blooming Tree clinic and Nursery on the top floor of these premises. The space that will then become available on the top floor will provide enough room for up to 20 additional pupils.
- The premises are clean, well maintained and secure. The requirements relating to lighting, acoustics, toilets, washing facilities and the medical room facility continue to be met. There is a suitable outdoor-play space on the top floor. Labelled drinking water supplies are available on all floors and hot water is safely regulated throughout the school.
- The independent school standards in this part are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

## Part 6. Provision of information

### *Paragraph 32(1)(c)*

- The school's safeguarding policy is available online.
- This requirement continues to be met.

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

### *Paragraph 34*

- Leaders have planned effectively to extend Blooming Tree Pre Prep School to accommodate a further 20 pupils, including those aged three to 11. Leaders have a secure understanding of the independent school standards.
- The independent school standard in this part is likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that are relevant to the material change.

## School details

Unique reference number	148807
DfE registration number	307/6014
Inspection number	10247841

This inspection was carried out under section 162(4) of the Education Act 2002, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's likely compliance with the independent school standards relevant to the material change that the school has applied to make.

Type of school	Primary day school for pupils with ASD
School status	Independent special school
Proprietor	Easy Steps Limited
Chair	Alice Koriki
Headteacher	Alice Koriki
Annual fees (day pupils)	£35,000 to £56,000
Telephone number	020 8354 0032
Website	<a href="http://www.bloomingtree.co.uk">www.bloomingtree.co.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:admin@bloomingtree.co.uk">admin@bloomingtree.co.uk</a>

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal	Inspector's recommendation
Age range of pupils	3 to 8	3 to 11	3 to 11
Number of pupils on the school roll	Up to 30	Up to 50	Up to 50

## Pupils

	School's current position	School's proposal
Gender of pupils	Mixed	No change
Number of full-time pupils of compulsory school age	14	Up to 50

Number of part-time pupils	None	No change
Number of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities	All pupils	No change
Of which, number of pupils with an education, health and care plan	All pupils	No change
Of which, number of pupils paid for by a local authority with an education, health and care plan	All pupils	No change

## Staff

	School's current position	School's proposal
Number of full-time equivalent teaching staff	1	3
Number of part-time teaching staff	None	No change
Number of staff in the welfare provision	17	60

## Information about this school

- Blooming Tree Pre Prep School is an independent special primary school catering for up to 30 pupils with ASD. All pupils have EHC plans.
- The school was registered in January 2022, following a pre-registration inspection in November 2021. The school has not yet had its first full inspection.
- The proprietors currently run Blooming Tree clinic, a registered early years provision (EY546136) on the top floor of the premises. They intend to close the clinic, which will provide the space for an additional 20 pupils at Blooming Tree Pre Prep School.
- The proprietors also run Blooming Tree Primary School (URN 148153).

## Information about this inspection

- The Department for Education commissioned this inspection to consider the school's application to extend its age range from ages three to eight to ages three to 11. The inspection also considered a material change to increase the school's maximum capacity to up to 50 pupils.
- This was the school's first material change inspection to consider these two material changes.
- The inspection was announced with two days of notice.
- The inspector considered whether some of the requirements in Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the independent school standards are likely to continue to be met if the material changes are implemented.
- The inspector met with the proprietors and senior leadership team. He met staff and pupils during his tour of the premises. He considered a wide range of evidence, including in relation to the curriculum, safeguarding and risk assessment.

## Inspection team

James Waite, lead inspector

Ofsted Inspector

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