

# Al-Khair Secondary Girls

109–117 Cherry Orchard, Croydon CR0 6BE

**Inspection date**

28 September 2023

**Overall outcome**

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

## Main inspection findings

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

*Paragraphs 7–7(b) and 34(1), 34(1)(c)*

- At the time of the progress monitoring inspection in December 2022, there were serious weaknesses in the school's safeguarding arrangements. The proprietor had appointed new leaders with responsibility for safeguarding. They had not received sufficient training to carry out their roles effectively. Safeguarding leaders did not have enough time to respond to and manage safeguarding concerns in the school. As a result, concerns about pupils' welfare were not followed up quickly enough. In addition, the school's safeguarding policy contained errors and did not meet statutory requirements.
- Since the previous inspection, safeguarding leaders have had appropriate training. They now have enough time to respond to and manage safeguarding cases in the school. Safeguarding leaders have a secure understanding of how to record and follow up referrals. They work effectively with external agencies to safeguard pupils. Leaders have ensured that all staff have been trained in the latest statutory safeguarding guidance. Staff receive regular safeguarding updates. They know how to recognise the signs that a pupil might be at risk. They report any concerns quickly. The school's safeguarding policy complies with the most recent statutory guidance.
- The independent school standards (the standards) in these paragraphs are now met.

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

*Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a) and 34(1)(b)*

- The previous inspection found that the proprietor's work to replace the previous governing body was at an early stage. There had been insufficient scrutiny of how well the school's safeguarding arrangements were working. The proprietor, who was also fulfilling the role of interim chair of governors, had not had recent training on safeguarding. Leaders had not ensured that those leading and managing safeguarding had sufficient time and ongoing support to manage their roles in line with statutory

requirements. This inspection found that the current headteacher, who took up post at the beginning of September 2023, is supported by a new chair of governors. Leaders have ambitious plans for the school.

- Leaders have made positive operational changes already. However, despite this inspection's positive findings, it is too early to judge whether the school's new leaders will ensure that the standards are met securely and consistently over time.
- The requirements of the standards in these paragraphs remain unmet.

## **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.

## School details

Unique reference number	147027
DfE registration number	306/6019
Inspection number	10296686

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	Secondary day school for girls
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	92
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Qasim Rashid Ahmad
Headteacher	Bayan Mahmood
Annual fees (day pupils)	£5,280
Telephone number	020 8662 8664
Website	<a href="http://www.alkhairschool.org.uk">www.alkhairschool.org.uk</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:info@alkhairschool.org.uk">info@alkhairschool.org.uk</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	28 to 30 January 2020

## Information about this school

- Al-Khair Secondary Girls is an Islamic, independent day school for girls aged 11 to 16.
- The new headteacher took up post in September 2023.
- The school shares a building with Al-Khair School, a secondary school for boys. The girls' school is on the first floor and the boys' school is on the ground floor. The schools have the same sole proprietor. They share facilities, such as the sports hall. They also share members of staff who teach in both schools.
- Leaders do not make use of any alternative provision.
- The school's most recent inspection was a progress monitoring inspection that took place in December 2022. The school's previous standard inspection was in January 2020.

## 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 second consecutive progress monitoring inspection since an emergency inspection was carried out in May 2022. As a result of unmet standards found at the time of the progress monitoring inspection in December 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) required the school to prepare an action plan. This action plan was evaluated by Ofsted in March 2023. It was judged to be not acceptable and the DfE subsequently rejected it. This progress monitoring inspection was carried out without notice and in parallel with an inspection of Al-Khair School, which is a boys' school.
- The inspector met with the headteacher, senior leaders and the chair of governors and toured the premises. The inspector reviewed a range of evidence to check compliance with the independent school standards relating to safeguarding. The inspector spoke to the proprietor on the telephone. The inspector also met with groups of pupils and a group of staff.

## Inspection team

Lisa Strong, lead inspector

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

### **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 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)(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

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