

Beis Aharon School

Independent school progress report

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17 November 2009 Rev Michael Binstock

Age group: 3-12

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Royal Exchange Buildings St Ann's Square Manchester M2 7LA

T: 08456 404040

Textphone: 0161 618 8524 E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk W: www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Purpose and scope of the visit

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002¹, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005². The visit was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Beis Aharon day school is an independent *Charedi* (strictly Orthodox) Jewish boys' school situated in the heart of the Jewish community in North London. Most of the 280 boys ages 3 to 12 belong to the local *Chasidic* community. The majority of boys speak Yiddish as their first language and *Kodesh* (Jewish Studies) is taught in Yiddish. In addition, literacy and numeracy, part of the secular studies (*Chol*) curriculum, is taught in both English and Yiddish. The school is open 6 days a week from Sunday to Friday and the majority of time is spent on the teaching of Yiddish and *Kodesh* studies. The school is guided by the principles of *Torah* (Jewish law) and rooted in an ethos of *Torah* values which aims to train the boys to grow into responsible members of their community and of society at large.

Context of the visit

An inspection conducted in November 2007 revealed that the school failed to meet many of the regulations. The school submitted a number of action plans and a progress monitoring visit took place on 5 March 2009 which reported that the school had moved into a new purpose-built building and that all but three of the regulations were met. In order to meet all the regulations for registration, the school needed to:

- i) produce appropriate plans and schemes of work for all areas of the *Chol* curriculum (paragraph 1(2))
- ii) provide resources of an adequate quality, quantity and range to support the teaching of all *Chol* subjects (paragraph 1(3)(f))
- iii) provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England (paragraph 2(d)).

A further action plan was evaluated on 5 August 2009; the plan failed to indicate clearly how the school would meet these three regulations. The purpose of this latest visit is to report at first hand on progress made in meeting the three outstanding regulations.

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www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8



Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The school has recently produced appropriate plans and schemes of work for the teaching of English and mathematics in each year group. They are of good quality and provide teachers with clear guidance in the preparation and teaching of their lessons. They draw attention to opportunities to assess pupils' progress and support the process of setting targets for pupils' learning. The process of implementing these new schemes of work is just beginning and therefore it is too early to judge their effectiveness. Schemes of work for other areas of the *Chol* curriculum have not yet been produced even though the school had planned to have them in place for this term. Completion of this task must now be regarded as a priority, as the requirements relating to the curriculum are still not met.

There is now a satisfactory range of appropriate resources to support the *Chol* curriculum, including materials for the teaching of mathematics, English, geography and science. Further textbooks are on order for imminent delivery. Resources are used effectively to support teaching and learning. This requirement is now met.

The school has produced and implemented an appropriate citizenship curriculum document to enable pupils to gain a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England. Teachers are making good use of the guidance in the document to plan their lessons. This requirement is now met.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

As a result of this inspection visit, the school must take action to meet the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003³ as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

ensure that there are appropriate plans and schemes of work for all areas of the *Chol* curriculum and that they are implemented effectively (paragraph 1(2)).

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³ www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm



School details

Name of school Beis Aharon School

DCSF number 204/6398 Unique reference number 131170

Type of school Jewish day school

Status Independent

Date school opened 1981

Age range of pupils 3–12

Gender of pupils Boys

Number on roll (full-time pupils) 280

Number of pupils with a statement of

special educational need

Annual fees (day pupils) £1,820

Address of school 83-95 Bethune Rd

London N16 5ED

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 Telephone number
 0208 809 9444

 Fax number
 0208 809 9666

Email address dbk@ttbal.plus.com
Headteacher Mr L Pomerantz
Proprietor Mr J Lipschitz

Reporting inspector Rev Michael Binstock
Dates of inspection 17 November 2009