

Jamea Al Kauthar

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	888/6034
Unique reference number	131355
Inspection number	345388
Inspection dates	05 and 10 November 2009
Reporting inspector	Saleem Hussain

Age group: 11-20

Published: 04 December 2009

Reference no: 090137

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It rates council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 08456 404040, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

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

No. 090137

© Crown copyright 2009



Purpose and scope of the visits

These inspection visits were carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002.

The visits were 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 plans following the previous inspection and also an unannounced visit.

Information about the school

Jamea Al Kauthar is a Muslim boarding school for girls aged 11 to 20, founded in 1996, providing both an Islamic and an academic education. There are currently 415 girls on roll. The school occupies the former Royal Albert hospital buildings, an historic site with extensive grounds not far from the centre of Lancaster. It comprises the boarding house, the school buildings and the madrassah, where the Islamic curriculum is taught. The school operates an admission policy of selection by ability.

Context of the visits

The school had its last inspection in January 2007. The school was required to produce an action plan that was accepted on 18 July 2007. The school received an unannounced visit in January 2009. As a result of this the school was required to produce a further action plan that was accepted on 12 June 2009. This is the report of two monitoring visits made to evaluate progress against the school's action plans.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plans

At the inspection of January 2007, the quality of education was judged to be satisfactory and the school met nearly all the regulations. However, the curriculum policy did not provide enough details about which subjects are taught, how skills were developed across the different subjects and how the religious curriculum linked with the secular curriculum. As a result, the school could not be certain that the secular curriculum provided for all the required areas of learning. Although there were a good range of strategies for testing and assessing pupils' progress, the school did not make good use of this information. Most teachers did not have sufficient knowledge of what the pupils already knew and could do, and so the planning for lessons did not focus on what the pupils needed to do next. In addition, the systems for assessing pupils' learning and for monitoring their progress were not rigorous enough to inform the school of how best to improve the teaching and learning. Whilst not required by the regulations, inspectors suggested that the school might wish to consider establishing a broader strategy throughout the school for the development of literacy.

The unannounced visit took place following a number of complaints. It identified eight regulatory breaches. Several breaches concerned safeguarding. These included insufficient child protection training for staff and volunteers, and also failures in the recording of safeguarding checks carried out on everyone. The school's written first aid policy was found to be unsatisfactory. The policy did not include details about all of the school's procedures and not all pupils who needed health plans had them. The provision of hot water did not meet requirements in a number of the washing areas. Finally, there were holes in two ceilings in the premises.

Senior managers developed action plans with clear strategies and procedures to remedy the weaknesses identified at the inspection of January 2007 and the unannounced visit of January 2009. The school planned to re-write the curriculum policy, drawing together details contained in several documents and adding more information where necessary. The school was to improve teachers' awareness of pupils' prior attainment through involving teachers in frequent reviews of pupils' performance. In addition, the school was to provide training for teachers in how best to use assessment information to plan lessons. The school planned to develop a new assessment framework and evaluate its effectiveness. The school also set out to develop its procedures to monitor teaching and learning in order to improve these aspects. The school was to review safeguarding and first aid policies and procedures in order to remedy the weaknesses. Health plans were to be put in place for all pupils requiring these. Repairs to the plumbing and roof were planned in order to improve the accommodation and facilities.

Leaders and managers have tackled the areas for improvement systematically and thoroughly. As a result of fully implementing the agreed action plans, the school has remedied all the shortcomings.

The revised curriculum policy clearly reflects all that the school offers. It provides a good level of detail, including how the religious and secular curricula complement each other. In re-writing the policy, the school also planned how literacy could be promoted across the curriculum. This has improved learning and progress in literacy because teachers are implementing this policy well and providing many more opportunities for literacy practice in different lessons. Effective staff training means that teachers now use information about pupils' prior attainment and aptitudes well to plan lessons. There is a strong focus on the steps pupils must take in order to improve. Implementation of the new assessment framework has resulted in very thorough evaluation of pupils' work. Assessment information is now well used to improve teaching and learning. Pupils speak very highly about the 'review weeks' held frequently in the academic year where they can reflect on issues and set future learning targets with their teachers. Senior managers now monitor teaching and learning rigorously. There is a clear focus on progress and the identification of how teaching and learning can be improved. Consequently, teaching and learning are improving at a good rate.

The school now has rigorous safeguarding procedures in place. The revised child protection policy specifies the school's training requirements. Records provide

evidence that all of the current staff have received appropriate training. The policy provides good guidance about everyone's safeguarding responsibilities and of the procedures to be followed by staff. A central register of safeguarding checks is now well maintained by the school. This gives details of all the statutory checks which have been carried out in respect of staff, the proprietor, trustees and volunteers. The school has developed its first aid policy and procedures. The policy now provides good detail about all first aid procedures. The school has also established and implemented health plans for all pupils who have medical conditions to ensure all aspects of their welfare. The school has attended to the accommodation matters effectively. There is now appropriate provision for hot water in all the washing areas. The ceilings in question have been repaired and re-decorated to a good standard.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

Name of school	Jamea Al Kauthar
DCSF number	888/6034
Unique reference number	131355
Type of school	Muslim Boarding School
Status	Independent
Date school opened	1996
Age range of pupils	11-20 years
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	415
Number of boarders	415
Annual fees (boarders)	£2,300
Address of school	Ashton Road Lancaster Lancashire LA1 5AJ
Telephone number	01524 389957
Fax number	01524 389333
Email address	admin@jamea.co.uk
Headteacher	Mrs A Soheil
Proprietor	Albadr Islamic Trust
Reporting inspector	Mr Saleem Hussain
Dates of inspection	05 and 10 November 2009