

Excelsior College

Independent school progress report

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Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher AI

Age group: 3–11

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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

Excelsior College is a small primary and nursery school located in the Selby Community Centre, Haringey, North London. It was established in 1989 by the present proprietor. The majority of pupils are of Afro-Caribbean or African British heritage. The school admits boys and girls aged three to 11 years of age and there are currently six pupils on roll.

The school has a wide range of objectives, based on ensuring that pupils receive a good 'all-round' education. The school also aims to encourage pupils to 'pursue knowledge and its acquisition with tenacity and for the purpose of fostering original thought and creating new ideas'. The school seeks to create an 'emotionally stable, disciplined and ordered environment'. The school's motto is: 'We Must: We Will'.

Context of the visit

At the time of the school's first inspection, the quality of education was judged to be satisfactory and the school met most of the regulations. There were some inadequate aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and aspects of teaching and assessment. The subsequent Action Plan which the school submitted was evaluated in June 2008 and was judged to be inadequate and needed further improvements before it could be accepted as meeting requirements.

A progress monitoring visit took place in June 2009 and the school was judged to have failed to make adequate progress in meeting the regulations identified as not met at the time of the last inspection. There was no action plan available following this visit. This second monitoring visit was to check the progress the school has made in meeting those regulations which had not yet been met.

¹ 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

Although there has been some progress made since the last monitoring visit, the school has not yet made satisfactory progress in implementing an action plan and ensuring that all the regulations are now met.

The school was required to improve the provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage by introducing more opportunities for choice, independent and outdoor learning. The headteacher now has a greater understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and has put in place basic planning for the six areas of learning but has not yet distinguished clearly enough between the opportunities for the Nursery and Reception class children. Play activities do not always have a clear learning focus and the learning is often teacher directed, rather than child initiated. There is no planning for outdoor learning. These actions are not yet sufficient to meet the regulations.

The school was required to improve planning in the Early Years Foundation Stage, so that work is better matched to each child's individual needs. The school has made some progress in using observations based on the early learning goals to improve planning, but this is incomplete as records do not always indicate the next steps in learning. These actions are not yet sufficient to meet the regulations.

The school was required to plan more specifically for the pupils in Key Stages 1. Lesson observations show that teachers know pupils very well and the use of assessment information and observations has enabled teachers in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, to provide individual work. Pupils in both key stages receive appropriate one-to-one tuition, and additional work in literacy and numeracy. Pupils are achieving in line with national standards, and make satisfactory progress. These actions are sufficient to meet the regulations related to the planning of lessons for pupils in Key Stage 1.

The school was required to provide additional resources to develop children's gross motor skills in the Early Years Foundation Stage as there were no wheeled toys or large apparatus. The school has now purchased bikes, scooters, hoppers and a trampoline, which are well used by children to promote their physical development. Children visit the local park regularly and also use the large apparatus there. These actions are sufficient to meet the regulations.

The school was required to develop its assessment procedures, so that teachers, pupils and parents are aware of the next steps in learning, and teachers can use assessment information to inform their future planning and ensure pupils are clear about how to improve their work. The school produced new assessment procedures using National Curriculum levels in English, mathematics and science. However, pupils are not set individual targets and as marking is poor, it does not help them to improve their work. These actions are not yet sufficient to meet the regulations.

The school was required to refurbish the kitchen which has now been redecorated. This regulation has now been 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:

- Improve the provision for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage by introducing more opportunities for choice, independent and outdoor learning (paragraph 1(2)(h)(ii)).
- Improve planning in the Early Years Foundation Stage, and at Key Stage 1, so that work is better matched to each child's and each pupil's individual needs (paragraph 1 (3)(c)).
- Develop assessment procedures, so that teachers, pupils and parents are aware of the next steps in learning, so that teachers can use assessment information to inform future planning and ensure pupils are clear about how to improve their work (paragraph 1 (3)(g)).

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

School details

Name of school	Excelsior College		
DCSF number	309/6076		
Unique reference number	102174		
Type of school	Primary		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	September 1989		
Age range of pupils	3–11		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 3	Girls: 3	Total: 6
Annual fees (day pupils)	£4,440		
Address of school	Selby Centre Selby Road Tottenham London N17 8JN		
Telephone number	0208 365 1153		
Fax number	N/A		
Email address	gilfillian2@hotmail.com		
Headteacher	Mr Gareth Gilfillian		
Proprietor	Mr Gareth Gilfillian		
Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher		
Dates of inspection	24 November 2009		