

# Eden Independent School

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	307/6084
Unique reference number	101964
Inspection number	345703
Inspection dates	2 December 2009
Reporting inspector	Greg Sorrell

Age group: 3–18

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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 2002<sup>1</sup>, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005<sup>2</sup>.

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

Eden Independent School was opened in 1995 by a group of Seventh-day Adventist educationalists who run the school as a charitable trust. Pupils are admitted from three to 18 years of age and there are 29 pupils currently on roll. Ealing and Brent local authorities place pupils at the school. There are currently no looked-after children in the school. One quarter of the pupils have statements of special educational needs which relate mostly to moderate learning, specific learning and behavioural and emotional difficulties. The school's mission statement supports the development of pupils' mental, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being through a practical and creative education. The school's main aim is to 'help each child to do their personal best and to enjoy a full and satisfying education at each stage of their development'.

In October 2008 the school moved to its current premises in Northolt. It is based in a former local authority school for pupils with special educational needs. Since the last inspection a number of teachers have left Eden School meaning that one quarter of the staff are new to the school.

## Context of the visit

The school was last inspected on 10 and 11 February 2009. The action plan was submitted on 24 July 2009 and evaluated and accepted on 13 August 2009. It was recommended that a monitoring visit be made to evaluate the progress made in meeting the regulations not met at the time of the last inspection. This is the first progress monitoring visit.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga\\_20020032\\_en\\_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162)

<sup>2</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga\\_20050018\\_en\\_15#sch8](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8)

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the inspection in February 2009, the school did not meet the requirements in relation to fire safety. The school now carries out termly fire drills when the time taken to evacuate the building and pupils' conduct during the drill are recorded. The school has received a quotation for the supply, installation and maintenance of a suitable alarm system, but this was deemed to be too expensive. It is understood that other quotations are being sought. This requirement remains unmet.

The school was required to address weaknesses in recruitment procedures and the maintenance of the single central record of staff checks, specifically for staff who require permission to work in the United Kingdom. There has been some improvement in procedures. For example, the acting headteacher has attended an appropriate course on Safe Recruitment in April 2009. In relation to staff who require permission to work in the United Kingdom, suitable checks are now made and properly recorded on the single central register. All staff have completed a health questionnaire and appropriate investigations are made where staff have had a break in service. However, not all staff files, including a recent appointment, contain character or professional references. It is asserted that verbal character and professional references are obtained by telephone. However there is no record kept of these calls. The school does not meet all requirements for safe recruitment.

The February inspection found that the school did not provide local authorities with an annual account of income received and expenditure made in relation to each pupil registered at the school and funded by the authority. The school now produces an information booklet that is sent to local authorities and this contains a breakdown of fees payable for its typical mainstream provision. There are several pupils who are funded at higher levels according to their statements of special educational needs. However, the school does not, as required, provide information as to how this funding is allocated for each pupil in this category.

The school has not made sufficient progress in implementing all of its action plan. While some progress has been made, the school must take urgent steps to meet the regulations detailed below.

## 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 2003<sup>3</sup> as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm)

- Ensure the school has a satisfactory level of fire safety, identified by its risk assessment under the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) and by any report from the Fire Authority (paragraph 3(5)).
- Ensure that prior to the confirmation of the appointment of all staff (including volunteers), appropriate checks been carried out to obtain character references and, where appropriate, professional references, and take such information into account in determining whether their appointment will be confirmed (paragraph 4(2)(a)).
- Where a pupil who is registered at the school is wholly or partly funded by a local authority, submit an annual account to that local authority, and on request to the Secretary of State, of income received and expenditure incurred in respect of each pupil funded by those local authorities (paragraph 6(8)).

## School details

Name of school	Eden Independent School		
DCSF number	307/6084		
Unique reference number	101964		
Type of school	Seventh-day Adventist school		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1995		
Age range of pupils	3–18 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 21	Girls: 8	Total: 29
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 6	Girls: 1	Total: 7
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,200 - £20,100		
Address of school	Eden Independent School Eastcote Lane Northolt Middlesex UB5 4HW		
Telephone number	020 842 37455		
Fax number	020 842 37455		
Email address	Edenoffice93@yahoo.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mr Eric N'Gussan		
Proprietor	Eden Independent SDA School		
Reporting inspector	Greg Sorrell		
Dates of inspection	2 December 2009		