

Beis Trana Girls School

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	204/6400
Unique Reference Number (URN)	131342
Inspection number	346521
Inspection dates	4 February 2010
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

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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 2005. 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 Trana Girls School is an independent day school registered for 178 girls aged 3–14 years. There are currently 248 girls on roll. It caters solely for girls of the strictly orthodox Jewish community from Hackney and Haringey. The families are from a variety of social and economic backgrounds and most are affiliated to the Square Chassidic movement, the headquarters of which are in New York. The main language spoken at home is Yiddish but most pupils are bilingual. Pupils have no access to radio, television or the internet but Jewish newspapers are read. Kodesh (religious studies) is mainly taught in the morning in Yiddish and Chol (secular studies) taught in the afternoon in English from Year 1. The last Ofsted inspection was in December 2007.

Context of the visit

The Ofsted inspection of December 2007 found a number of failures to meet the regulations. The school's action plan formulated after this inspection was evaluated in November 2008. The school had made some improvements but no reference was made in the plan to the overcrowding in the school. The school is registered for 178 girls and there are now 248 on the premises. There have been no recent Early Years or Child Care inspections. At the time of its last inspection in December 2007 the school had 205 pupils on roll. Ofsted identified space in the classrooms as a concern. By January 2009 a further increase to 235 on roll was noted in its Annual School Census. A visit was made to the school in June 2009 when it was found that no improvements had been made to address the issue of overcrowding. This progress monitoring visit was made principally to discover what progress the school has made in addressing the outstanding issue of overcrowding in the school. The school's progress in remedying a small number of other deficiencies was also evaluated. The school now has girls up to the age of 16 in Year 11 as they have expanded their age range.

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The December 2007 inspection found that the school did not make effective use of assessment information. The school was required to ensure that all teaching staff had a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils and that these were taken into account in the planning of lessons. The teaching staff have received additional training and more formal assessment records are kept. Staff are aware of the data in the assessment records and now use the information in planning their lessons so as to meet pupils' needs more accurately. The inspection found that the school had insufficient resources. New resources have been purchased and these are now sufficient.

The school admission and attendance registers are not kept according to the regulations. The school has applied for enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks on all staff but is still awaiting confirmation that a number of the staff are suitable to work with children. This information will need to be included in the single central register of staff appointments so that this meets requirements.

The school was required to improve the size of the classrooms to allow more effective teaching and to avoid compromising the health and safety of the pupils. New classroom accommodation has been provided and the rooms are now sufficient for the number of pupils. The decoration and maintenance are adequate. The new teaching areas do not have suitable floor coverings. The school has plans to install new floor coverings in the near future, but does not meet the requirement at present. There are sufficient toilets for the number of pupils but an additional washbasin with hot and cold water is needed for the senior pupils.

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 2003² as amended ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- maintain the admission and attendance registers in accordance with the regulations (paragraph 3(9))
- ensure that for all appointments from 1 September 2003, an enhanced criminal record check is made by the proprietor in respect of any member of staff appointed to a position at the school (paragraph 4(2)(b))
- for each member of staff in post on or after 1 September 2003, ensure that the register shows that an enhanced CRB certificate was obtained (paragraph 4C(2) and (3))
- ensure that there are sufficient washbasins for senior pupils which take account of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 5(k))

² www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20031910.htm

- provide suitable floor coverings for all areas of the school (paragraph 5(s)).

School details

Name of school	Beis Trana Girls School
DCSF number	204/6400
Unique reference number (URN)	131342
Type of school	Jewish day school
Status	Independent
Date school opened	1995
Age range of pupils	3–14 years
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	248
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	2
Annual fees	No fees are charged
Address of school	186 Upper Clapton Road London E5 9DH
Telephone number	020 8815 8003
Fax number	020 8800 7933
Email address	btschool@btconnect.co.uk
Headteacher	Mrs Weiss/Mrs Hirsch/Mrs Hager/Mrs Smaya
Proprietor	Mr Konig
Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton
Dates of inspection	4 February 2010