

Olive Tree School

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	209/6363
Unique Reference Number (URN)	134400
Inspection number	353927
Inspection date	9 March 2010
Reporting inspector	Michèle Messaoudi

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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

Olive Tree is a small Muslim school which is part of the Lewisham Islamic Centre. It admits boys and girls aged four to 11 years. There are 70 pupils with diverse ethnic backgrounds on roll taught in four classes. Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are taught together and so are Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. There are currently no pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Pupils often have not attended any nursery provision and start school with very limited spoken English and social skills. The school's stated mission is to '...enhance and nurture the growth of pupils....' Its motto is 'Knowledge for success'. Since the last inspection, a new headteacher and new teachers have been appointed.

Context of the visit

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2009. Its action plan was evaluated as inadequate in November 2009 because the actions which the school proposed to take were not set against timelines and did not state how they would be evaluated and when. A revised action plan was produced. This is the first visit to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the time of the last inspection in March 2009, the planning of lessons had major weaknesses resulting in missed learning opportunities. Lessons and activities were not sufficiently well planned, effective teaching methods and suitable activities were not used and time was not managed wisely.

Since the last inspection, there has been turbulence in staffing which slowed down the implementation of the school's action plan in the summer term 2008-2009 and in the autumn term 2009-2010. A new headteacher took up his post in January 2010

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

and three teachers, out of the five currently employed, were appointed in September or December 2009.

The staff underwent training on planning and assessment in early January and February and four of them visited a local maintained primary school to observe good practice. As a result, effective teaching methods are now used and lesson time is managed wisely. The teaching uses a suitable range of methods to sustain pupils' interest. There is effective questioning, the use of a variety of class and individual work and a variety of tasks, including practical and assessment tasks. Pupils are given sufficient time to develop their own investigative and independent learning skills, while time is rarely wasted. Only occasionally is the pace of learning slowed down when resources such as dictionaries are not used in sufficient quantity or resources are not sufficiently well prepared.

The effectiveness of planning and the suitability of tasks remain a weakness. Planning, especially for mixed-age classes, includes learning objectives and activities that do not sufficiently match the requirements of pupils of varying abilities and different ages. As a result, the tasks set are not demanding enough for some pupils and they make less progress than they should.

Whilst progress has been made in implementing the action plan, the school must take urgent steps to fully meet the requirements of the regulation not met during the last inspection.

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 lessons are well planned and activities chosen so that the needs of the whole range of ages and abilities in mixed-age classes are met (paragraph 1(3)(c)).

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

School details

Name of school	Olive Tree School
DCSF number	209/6363
Unique reference number (URN)	134400
Type of school	Muslim day primary
Status	Independent
Date school opened	September 2003
Age range of pupils	5-11 years
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 39 Girls: 31 Total: 70
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,145
Address of school	363-365 Lewisham High Street
Telephone number	020 8314 0169
Fax number	0870 1236229
Email address	olivetreeschool@hotmail.co.uk
Headteacher	Mr Mohammed Barrie
Proprietor	Lewisham Islamic Centre
Reporting inspector	Mrs Michèle Messaoudi
Date of inspection	9 March 2010