

Talmud Torah Yetev-Lev

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	204/6233
Unique Reference Number (URN)	100289
Inspection number	354274
Inspection dates	4 May 2010
Reporting inspector	Jonathan Yodaiken

This inspection visit to the school was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002 at the request of the registering authority for independent schools.

Age group: 3-12

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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

Talmud Torah Yetev-Lev is an independent, strictly orthodox, Jewish day school for boys aged three to 12 years of age. There are 635 pupils on roll. It is located near Stamford Hill in the centre of North London's orthodox Jewish community. The school is owned and maintained by the Satmar Chassidic community. Virtually all boys speak Yiddish as their first language. Kodesh (Jewish studies) are taught in Yiddish. Chol (secular subjects) are taught in English. There is a headteacher for the Jewish studies and one for the secular studies. The majority of time is spent on the kodesh studies. The school is open six days a week from Sunday to Friday. The school exists to meet the need 'for learning, socialisation, care and support for Yiddish speaking children and parents in the locality'.

Context of the visit

The school's last full inspection was in March 2008, when a large number of the regulations were not met. A progress monitoring visit took place in November 2008 when three of the regulations were still not met and after which an action plan was formulated. In November 2009 the school's action plan was deemed to be broadly satisfactory but in need of timescales for implementation of the various strategies to meet the unmet regulations. This is the second monitoring visit to the school to check on the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the last inspection, the quality of education was judged to be unsatisfactory. Three regulations were not met. The chol curriculum was inadequate with no schemes of work in place. The curriculum was not broad enough, with little attention given to scientific, aesthetic and creative, technological and physical areas of

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

learning. There were few subject policies and little systematic planning to help pupils make progress. There was no clear framework for assessment in chol subjects to guide teachers.

In order to improve, the school has drawn upon the expertise of a curriculum coordinator recruited specifically to help devise and implement the action plan. He, together with the recently appointed headteacher of secular studies, has produced curriculum documents, policies and schemes of work to support the chol curriculum. English, mathematics, science, geography and physical education (PE) are taught discreetly, while all other subjects and areas of learning are taught within the kodesh curriculum in a cross-curricular fashion. This cross-curricular provision has become a priority within the school and the school has produced a document which shows the planning of this integrative approach. Physical education is now taught weekly in every class. The headteacher provides support and advice for the chol staff.

The school has improved resources and equipment to support pupils' learning, for example, by providing text books in English, mathematics and science.

There is now a rigorous assessment framework in place to assess pupils' levels of attainment in mathematics and in the cross-curricular work taught within the kodesh curriculum. However, there is no whole-school framework for assessment in English which would inform teachers' planning to meet the learning needs of pupils. The headteacher and curriculum coordinator are beginning work on this.

The curriculum now provides experience in all the required areas of learning. It is set out in writing and is supported by schemes of work and appropriate plans. The chol curriculum is well matched to the ages, aptitudes and interests of the pupils and contributes well towards pupils' learning and progress. The kodesh curriculum provides pupils with experience in history, geography, art, mathematics and science, and in the social, aesthetic and creative areas of learning. Satisfactory progress has been made in providing an assessment framework.

The school has made satisfactory progress towards implementing its action plan.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made satisfactory progress and now meets all regulatory requirements except one.

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:

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

- Provide a framework to regularly and thoroughly assess pupils' work in English and use the information from such assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can make progress (paragraph 1(3)(g)).

School details

Name of school	Talmud Torah Yetev-Lev
DCSF number	355/6035
Unique reference number (URN)	100289
Type of school	Faith: Jewish primary
Status	Independent

Date school opened	1965
Age range of pupils	3–12
Gender of pupils	Male
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 635
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 7
Number of children receiving funded Nursery education	Boys: 160
Annual fees (day pupils)	No fees charged
Address of school	111–115 Cazenove Road London N16 6AX
Telephone number	0208 806 3834
Fax number	0208 806 8414
Email address	accounts@satmar.co.uk
Headteacher kodesh	Rabbi E Padwa
Headteacher chol	Mr I Krauss
Proprietor	Talmud Torah Education Limited
Reporting inspector	Dr Jonathan Yodaiken
Dates of inspection	4 May 2010