

# The Meadows Montessori School

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	935/6226
Unique Reference Number (URN)	135689
Inspection number	361293
Inspection dates	17 June 2010
Reporting inspector	Declan McCarthy AI

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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

The Meadows is an independent day school catering for up to 40 pupils aged four to 11 years. It follows the Montessori educational philosophy and methodology which is used as a context for teaching the curriculum subjects. The Montessori philosophy believes that teaching and learning start with each child's individual interests and aptitudes. Children are given the freedom to make choices, learn and progress at their own individual rate in clear, well-ordered indoor and outdoor environments that are designed specially for them.

The school opened in September 2008 as a continuation of the separate Montessori-based pre-school provision owned by the proprietor. This is located on the same site and was judged to be outstanding at its last inspection in November 2007. There are currently 34 pupils on roll at The Meadows, six of whom are in the Reception age group of the Early Years Foundation Stage. These children share a classroom with six pupils in Year 1. The 14 pupils in Year 2 and above have a separate classroom. The school is situated on the outskirts of Ipswich, in the grounds of a large sports centre. Its prime aim is 'to provide a safe, happy, stable environment where children can develop to their full potential, becoming confident, competent learners'.

## Context of the visit

The school was last inspected in November 2009 when it was judged as meeting most regulations. Following its inspection the school produced an action plan which was accepted by the DCSF in February 2010. The school's response to its action plan was evaluated by an additional inspector on 24 November 2009 and was judged as satisfactory, although the implementation was not seen at that time. The purpose of this visit is to evaluate the school's implementation of its action plan. This includes observation of two lessons and daily routines, the scrutiny of various policies and documents including those for safeguarding, first aid, anti-bullying, medical fitness forms and attendance registers.

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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

The school has made good progress in implementing its action plan. It meets all welfare health and safety requirements as: a detailed anti-bullying policy is in place linked to two new age appropriate policies to promote good behaviour; a new policy 'SAFE child' which meets all the recommendations for child protection is implemented effectively; and a full fire risk assessment has been carried out with recommendations implemented. A satisfactory policy for first aid is now in place with an appropriate system in place to record accidents. Attendance registers are now maintained and comply with requirements and a three year disability access plan is in place.

The school also meets all requirements for the suitability of the proprietor and staff. A new pro-forma medical fitness form has been produced. All existing staff have completed this and these have been checked and countersigned by the headteacher. All new staff complete this prior to their appointment.

The school also meets the outstanding regulation for the provision of information. A new annual report for parents has been produced detailing attainment in each subject using National Curriculum levels and providing clear judgements on progress.

The welfare requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage are met as all policies already reviewed have clear references to this stage of education and clear plans are in place to amend other policies as they come up for review within the school's review cycle. Observations of informal activities and in a lesson for the Early Years Foundation Stage showed that welfare requirements are implemented effectively, through, for example, high levels of adult supervision and interaction with children.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

## School details

Name of school	The Meadows Montessori School		
DCSF number	935/6226		
Unique reference number (URN)	135689		
Type of school	Day School		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	01 September 2008		
Age range of pupils	4 to 11		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 14	Girls: 20	Total: 34
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£4,700		
Address of school	Tuddenham Road Ipswich Suffolk IP4 3QJ		
Telephone number	01473 233782		
Fax number	01473 233782		
Email address	s.sims@tesco.net		
Headteacher	Mrs Samantha Sims		
Proprietor	Mrs Samantha Sims		
Reporting inspector	Declan McCarthy		
Dates of inspection	Thursday 17 June 2010		