



Progress Monitoring Inspection Report

Islamiyah Girls School

January 2024

School's details

School	Islamiyah Girls School	
DfE number	889/6007	
Address	Islamiyah Girls School Willow Street Little Harwood Blackburn BB1 5NQ	
Telephone number	01254 661259	
Email address	info@islamiyahschoolblackburn.com	
Headteacher	Mrs Yaasmin Mubarak	
Chair of governors	Mr Mubarak Patel	
Proprietorial Body	Masjid-E Sajedeen Islamiyah	
Age range	11 to 16	
Number of pupils on roll	181	
	Seniors	181
Date of inspection	30 January 2024	

1. Introduction

Characteristics of the school

- 1.1 Islamiyah School is an independent Muslim day school for female pupils, located in the Little Harwood district of Blackburn. The school was founded in 2000 and is owned by the nearby Masjid-e-Sajedeen mosque, whose members act as trustees and provide governance. The school combines both secular and Islamic education. No pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, and the school has identified no pupils as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). No pupil has English as an additional language (EAL). A new headteacher was appointed in January 2023. The school's previous inspections were a regulatory compliance inspection in November 2022, followed by a progress monitoring inspection in June 2023.

Purpose of the inspection

- 1.2 This was an unannounced progress monitoring inspection at the request of the Department for Education (DfE) to check that the school has fully implemented the action plan submitted following the progress monitoring inspection in June 2023. The inspection focused on the school's compliance with the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (ISSRs).

Regulations which were the focus of the inspection	Team judgements
Part 3, paragraph 7 (safeguarding)	Met
Part 3, paragraph 16 (risk assessment)	Met
Part 4, paragraphs 18-21 (suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors)	Met
Part 5, paragraphs 23 (changing accommodation and showers) and 25 (maintenance)	Met
Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c) (provision of information)	Met
Part 7, paragraph 33 (complaints)	Met
Part 8, paragraph 34 (leadership and management)	Met

2. Inspection findings

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – safeguarding [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 7]

Safeguarding policy

- 2.1 The school meets the requirements.
- 2.2 The school has an appropriate policy for safeguarding which provides suitable arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

Safeguarding implementation

- 2.3 The school meets the standard.
- 2.4 The management of safeguarding has improved sufficiently since the previous inspection to ensure that arrangements are implemented effectively. This includes those for pupils in need or at risk. Senior managers, governors and staff have undertaken additional training successfully. This has enabled them to demonstrate sufficient understanding of safeguarding requirements, including how to identify lines of referral and contact points with external agencies. Senior leaders ensure that where appropriate they access timely support and guidance from the local authority in handling safeguarding matters. Pupils feel that that safeguarding concerns are handled effectively and this is confirmed by records of safeguarding.
- 2.5 The recording of safeguarding matters has been revised effectively. All concerns are now appropriately held centrally and logged in detail. This has ensured a systematic and coherent process to assist pupils who may be at risk. Records show timely and appropriate liaison with both parents and local agencies, including the local safeguarding partnership.
- 2.6 Staff listen to pupils and take appropriate and timely action when concerns are raised. All staff have accessed suitable training, some of which has been delivered by the local authority. Staff confirmed familiarity with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) Part 1 and Annex B and recent changes in statutory guidance, including regarding online safety. Staff receive clear guidelines on the types of child-on-child abuse that can occur, including any relating to inappropriate relationships. Staff understand the significance of reacting to and reporting such behaviours. Both the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and the deputy have sufficient status and authority to undertake their roles and have the appropriate level of training, which is in line with local procedures. The DSL, who is also the headteacher, provides regular updates to all staff. Staff are given opportunities for discussion on any changes to safeguarding policies and their implementation.
- 2.7 There are appropriate measures to handle any allegations against adults working in the school. Staff understand these and are prepared to report any concerns they may have. There is an effective code of conduct for staff, and staff are familiar and confident to use the whistleblowing policy to raise any worries or concerns. The governors and senior leaders now undertake a termly safeguarding review with due diligence, which supports the annual review. They demonstrate increased and suitable rigour in their oversight of arrangements. This includes, if necessary, consultation with external professionals and a review of any safeguarding incidents that may occur. The governing board members have all now received appropriate training in safeguarding. They now have the necessary understanding to fulfil their role in monitoring the management of safeguarding, including their role in monitoring pupils' welfare.
- 2.8 Leaders and governors have ensured that previous omissions in the checking of staff and governors prior to starting work at the school have now been appropriately addressed. Improved monitoring of safer recruitment at senior leader and governing board level has benefitted from safer recruitment training. This has enabled effective oversight of recruitment processes. It has ensured that, since the

previous inspection, all required checks of new and existing staff and governors have been undertaken appropriately.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils – risk assessment [ISSR Part 3, paragraph 16]

- 2.9 The school meets the standard.
- 2.10 Improved focus on the production and implementation of risk assessments across the school since the previous inspection has enabled a more rigorous approach in this area. This includes risk assessments made to protect pupils and staff from potential harm or risk. Increased staff and governor training has ensured that all staff are able to produce assessments which effectively address identified risks to pupils. They also detail any mitigating actions which need to be implemented. A review of a range of risk assessments confirmed that these are now completed and actioned effectively. Where there is a perceived need, the school produces suitable risk assessments for individual pupils to ensure their welfare and safety. In particular, where a pupil is assessed as being vulnerable. Senior leaders, including a governor with a health and safety role, review and sign off all risk assessments.

Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors [ISSR Part 4, paragraphs 18–21]

- 2.11 The school meets the standards.
- 2.12 The school now carries out all the required checks on staff and governors correctly. Previous omissions in the checking processes have all been appropriately addressed. School leaders have sought appropriate advice on staff recruitment and have redesigned the single central register (SCR) of staff recruitment checks effectively. All the appropriate checks have now been made for the chair of governors and all governors now have been checked against the list of those prohibited from management. Scrutiny of the entry of data into the SCR indicated that the recording of recruitment checks on potential and existing staff is now appropriate. Staff file entries correspond to the SCR. Senior leaders and governing board members jointly undertake regular checks of the SCR to ensure its accuracy.

Premises and accommodation – toilet and washing facilities, and maintenance [ISSR Part 5, paragraphs 23 and 25]

- 2.13 The school meets the standards.
- 2.14 The school has completed the installation of suitable showering and washing facilities required by the previous inspection. These became operational in September 2023 and meet the regulatory requirements for pupils aged 11 and over. Pupils confirmed that the new facilities are adequate for their needs.
- 2.15 Maintenance regimes have been suitably improved since the previous inspection visit. This has ensured that there is more systematic logging and managing of maintenance requirements. Governors with an estates management and health and safety brief work effectively with the school team. This ensures that there is now proactive management of maintenance needs. Observation of logs shows more effective recording of work required which allows for work to be prioritised. The maintenance regime now ensures that the site is maintained to a standard that, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensures the health and safety of the pupils.

Provision of information [ISSR Part 6, paragraph 32(1)(c)]

- 2.16 The school meets the requirements for providing information relating to safeguarding to parents. Particulars of the arrangements for safeguarding are published on the school's website and is provided to parents on request.

Manner in which complaints are handled [ISSR Part 7, paragraph 33]

- 2.17 The school meets the standard.
- 2.18 An appropriate complaints policy is in place which is effectively implemented. It includes the required three stages at which complaints may be raised and provides appropriate timescales for these. Scrutiny of the complaints logs demonstrates that the school follows its policy and procedures appropriately. Action is taken and the outcome is communicated to parents within these timescales. The log indicates that there have been no complaints that have reached the third stage over the past academic year. Therefore, there have been no panel appeals as a result. Evidence also indicates that follow-up of recent complaints is systematic and thorough. Evidence of complaints made regarding pupil and staff behaviour indicates that the school handles these effectively through fair and appropriate procedures. It follows its policy and ensures that the safeguarding needs of the pupils are met. Governors meet with senior leaders on a regular basis to review the handling of all formal complaints and look for evidence of trends and themes.

Quality of leadership and management [ISSR Part 8, paragraph 34]

- 2.19 The school meets the standard.
- 2.20 The governors and senior leaders have fully implemented all of the points in the school's action plan effectively. Appropriate measures are in place to support ongoing compliance, particularly in the case of safeguarding, risk assessment and staff recruitment. The school leaders and governors now demonstrate the appropriate knowledge and skills to ensure their duties and responsibilities are fulfilled effectively, so that the standards are consistently met, and the wellbeing of pupils is actively promoted.

3. Regulatory action points

- 3.1 For the regulations which were the focus of this inspection, the school meets all of the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

4. Summary of evidence

- 4.1 The inspectors held discussions with the head, senior leaders and other members of staff and met with the members of the governing board. They visited different areas of the school, and talked with groups of pupils. They scrutinised a range of documentation, records and policies.