

Abu Bakr Girls' School

27 September 2016

The Shelly Campus, Scarborough Road, Walsall WS2 6TU

Overall outcome

The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection

Main inspection findings

Part 1. Quality of education provided

Paragraphs 2(1), 2(1)(a), 2(1)(b), 2(1)(b)(i) and 2(1)(b)(ii)

- The school has a clear, detailed and appropriate written policy on the curriculum which is effectively supported by schemes of work and medium-term plans for all subjects taught. Visits to lessons and discussions with pupils confirmed that the curriculum takes account of the ages, aptitudes and needs of pupils and that learning about modern British values is an integral part of teaching in the school.

Paragraphs 2(2)(d), 2(2)(d)(i), 2(2)(d)(ii), 2(2)(e), 2(2)(e)(i), 2(2)(e)(ii), 2(2)(e)(iii) and 2(2)(i)

- Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is well planned to reflect the school's ethos and to ensure that pupils are actively encouraged and required to respect other people. Curriculum documents for PSHE education include planning to teach pupils about the protected characteristics. In discussions with inspectors, pupils spoke of learning about these, for instance through class discussions about different types of families and civil marriages.
- As part of the PSHE education curriculum, pupils receive up-to-date and impartial careers advice. Girls spoke about visitors from many different professions, industries and businesses that enhanced their classroom-based learning. They were aware of a range of options, including sixth-form colleges, apprenticeships, universities and internships. The vast majority of pupils spoken to are planning to go on to sixth-form colleges and many hope to go to university.
- Pupils are encouraged to develop leadership skills through membership of the school council and undertaking other responsibilities. For instance, secondary school pupils have been supporting reading in a local primary school. A range of additional activities, such as school clubs and educational visits, provide pupils with opportunities to experience and understand other beliefs and cultures.

Paragraph 3, 3(i) and 3(j)

- Teaching reflects the school's ethos and curriculum plans which aim to ensure that pupils at the school have a well-developed understanding of modern British values. Teachers are from a range of faiths and cultures and often use this to inspire discussion and further understanding about differences and similarities in beliefs. Teaching does not discriminate against pupils contrary to part 6 of the Education Act 2010.

These standards are met.

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Paragraphs 5, 5(a), 5(b), 5(b)(i), 5(b)(ii), 5(b)(iii), 5(b)(iv), 5(b)(v), 5(b)(vi), 5(b)(vii), 5(c), 5(d), 5(d)(i), 5(d)(ii) and 5(d)(iii)

- School leaders have ensured that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is well supported. Opportunities to develop understanding are clearly signposted in schemes of work for all subjects as well as within the PSHE education curriculum. Displays of pupils' work in classrooms and corridors show a broad range of issues taught and considered. They provide insight into how teachers and pupils link their faith with British values. Pupils spoke of how to be a 'good' person, linked to their current studies in religious education about atheism. They showed understanding that being a good person is about how you treat others, not about religious beliefs. For instance, one pupil noted that it is about, 'treating others as you want them to treat you.' All agreed that they would choose friends by this criterion, rather than by faith or culture.

These standards are met.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Paragraphs 7, 7(a) and 7(b)

- The school's safeguarding policy has been updated to reflect the most recent guidance from the Secretary of State. The designated safeguarding lead delivered training to update staff on the first day of the new term. Records and other materials show that training is regular and appropriate. In discussions with inspectors, all staff demonstrated understanding of their role in ensuring that pupils are safe and the procedures to follow if they have concerns. The school meets the requirement to publish its safeguarding policy on the school website.

These standards are met.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c) and 34(2)

- In relation to the standards checked during this inspection, the proprietor has ensured that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role and fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently. They actively promote the well-being of pupils.

These standards are met.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- Arrangements are made to meet the requirements of paragraph 3 of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

School details

Unique reference number	132750
DfE registration number	335/6010
Inspection number	10022737

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Type of school	All-through Islamic day school
School status	Independent
Age range of pupils	4–16
Gender of pupils	Girls
Number of pupils on the school roll	450
Proprietor	Mohammad Luqman
Chair	Mohammad Luqman
Headteacher	Hasina Varachia
Annual fees (day pupils)	£1,600
Telephone number	01922 612361
Website	www.abubakrgirlsschool.org
Email address	info@abubakrgirlschool.org
Date of previous standard inspection	6 December 2007

Information about this school

- Abu Bakr Girls' School is an independent all-through school that caters for boys and girls up to the age of 11 and for girls up to the age of 16.
- The school is part of the Abu Bakr Trust.
- The proprietor is also the chair of the governing board.
- The school's vision is to lay the foundations for the building of an Islamic personality, providing its pupils with the highest standard of education.
- The school is registered for 514 pupils and currently has 450 pupils on roll.
- All pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- Five pupils have an education, health and care plan.
- No pupils are eligible for pupil premium funding.
- No pupils are in the care of the local authority.

Information about this inspection

- This emergency inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools to run concurrently with inspections of the other schools in the Abu Bakr Trust, including the boys' school and the nursery. It was commissioned as a result of concerns the Department for Education had about the proprietor. This inspection was carried out at no notice.
- Inspectors undertook a tour of the school and visited classrooms to observe learning. Inspectors spoke to groups of pupils, formally and informally, and met with teachers from both school sites.
- Inspectors scrutinised a range of documents, including curriculum policies, schemes of work and records relating to admissions, attendance and behaviour. The school's safeguarding arrangements and associated records were also scrutinised.
- Inspectors met with school leaders to discuss policies and how they are implemented and the impact they have on keeping pupils safe and their development as British citizens.

Inspection team

Mel Ford, lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Sandra Hayes	Her Majesty's Inspector

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