



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report

Islamiyah Girls School

November 2022

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School's Details

School	Islamiyah Girls School	
DfE number	889/6007	
Address	Islamiyah Girls School Willow Street Little Harwood Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5NQ	
Telephone number	01254 661259	
Email address	info@islamiyahschoolblackburn.com	
Headteacher	Mrs Salma Patel	
Proprietor	Masjid-E Sajedeen Islamiyah	
Age range	11 to 16	
Number of pupils on roll	202	
	Seniors	202
Inspection dates	30 November to 1 December 2022	

1. Background Information

About 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 offers both secular and Islamic education. Since the school's previous inspection by Ofsted, an interim headteacher was appointed in 2021 and a new chair of governors in 2022.

What the school seeks to do

- 1.2 The school aims to offer a broad and balanced curriculum alongside a positive understanding of Islam in order to equip pupils to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible British citizens. It seeks to provide pupils with a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment which develops their intellect and talents as independent learners and to encourage them to develop moral integrity, a sense of social responsibility and respect for themselves and others.

About the pupils

- 1.3 Pupils come from Muslim families living in the local area. Standardised data provided by the school indicate that the ability of the pupils is above average for those taking similar tests nationally. 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). English is an additional language (EAL) for two pupils, whose needs are supported by their classroom teachers. Data used by the school have identified nine pupils as being the more able in the school's population, and the curriculum is modified for them and for three other pupils because of their particular talents in Arabic.

2. Regulatory Compliance Inspection

Preface

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is approved by the Secretary of State to inspect schools which are, or whose heads are, in membership of the associations which form the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and report on the extent to which they meet the Independent School Standards ('the standards') in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Additionally, inspections report on the school's accessibility plan under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996. Inspections also comment on the progress made to meet any compliance action points set out in the school's most recent statutory inspection.

ISI inspections are also carried out under the arrangements of the ISC Associations for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of their membership.

This is a COMPLIANCE ONLY inspection and as such reports only on the school's compliance with the standards. The standards represent minimum requirements and judgements are given either as **met** or as **not met**. All schools are required to meet all the standards applicable to them. Where the minimum requirements are not met, this is clearly indicated and the school is required to take the actions specified.

Inspections do not include matters that are outside of the regulatory framework described above, such as: an exhaustive health and safety audit; compliance with data protection requirements; an in-depth examination of the structural condition of the school, its services or other physical features; contractual arrangements with parents; an investigation of the financial viability of the school or its accounting procedures.

Inspectors may be aware of individual safeguarding concerns, allegations and complaints as part of the inspection process. Such matters will not usually be referred to specifically in published reports in this document but will have been considered by the team in reaching its judgements.

Links to the standards and requirements can be found here: [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#)

Key findings

- 2.1 The school does not meet all of the required standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements, and should take immediate action to remedy deficiencies as detailed below.**

PART 1 – Quality of education provided

- 2.2 At GCSE in the years 2019 to 2022, performance has confirmed that teaching enables pupils to make good progress in the context of Part 1 paragraph 3(a).
- 2.3 The curriculum is documented, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work for the pupils and covers the required breadth of material. The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources. A suitable framework for the assessment of pupils' performance is in place.
- 2.4 Pupils receive relationships and sex education, except in so far as they are lawfully excused. The school has consulted parents and published a written statement of its policy which has regard to the relevant statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The standards relating to the quality of education [paragraphs 1–4] are met.**

PART 2 – Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- 2.6 Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.
- 2.7 The standard relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development [paragraph 5] is met.**

PART 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- 2.8 Arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils by means that pay due regard to current statutory guidance in all areas except for safer recruitment. Barred list checks on members of staff have not always been completed before they start employment, where these are required. In addition, the school has not always ensured that satisfactory references are received for staff before they begin work. The school has made prohibition from management and enhanced criminal record checks for governors, but not always as soon as reasonably practicable after appointment.
- 2.9 Good behaviour is promoted; bullying is prevented so far as reasonably practicable; health and safety requirements are met, including those relating to fire safety; provision is made for first aid. Pupils are properly supervised; admission and attendance registers are maintained, as required, and there is a strategic approach to risk assessment. A disability access plan is in place.
- 2.10 The standards relating to welfare, health and safety in paragraphs 9 - 16, the requirement of Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 (accessibility plan), and the ban on corporal punishment under section 548 of the Education Act 1996 are met, but those in paragraph 7 [safeguarding] are not met.**

Action point 1

The school must ensure that barred list checks are undertaken before members of staff take up their appointment [paragraph 7(a) and (b)].

Action point 2

The school must ensure that satisfactory references are received for all staff before they begin work [paragraph 7(a) and (b)].

Action point 3

The school must ensure that prohibition from management and enhanced criminal record checks for governors are undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable after appointment [paragraph 7(a) and (b)].

PART 4 – Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

- 2.11 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff and supply staff, and a register is kept as required.
- 2.12 The required checks on identity and right to work in the UK are not carried on governors as soon as practicable after appointment.
- 2.13 The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school in paragraphs 17, 18, 19 and 21 are met, but paragraph 20 is not met.**

Action point 4

The school must ensure that identity and right to work checks for governors are undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable after appointment [paragraph 20(6)(b)(ii)].

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 2.14 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. Acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.15 Changing facilities are not maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety. Their poor repair impacts on the welfare of the pupils.
- 2.16 The standards relating to the premises and accommodation in paragraphs 22 – 24 and 26 - 31 are met, but that in paragraph 25 [maintenance] is not met.**

Action point 5

The school must ensure that premises and facilities are maintained to a standard that ensures pupils' welfare [paragraph 25].

PART 6 – Provision of information

- 2.17 A range of information is published, provided or made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education. This includes details about the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the curriculum, and of the school's arrangements for admission, behaviour and exclusions, bullying, health and safety, first aid, details of the complaints procedure, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year, and the provision for any with education, health and care plans or English as an additional language. It also includes particulars of the school's academic performance during the preceding school year, inspection reports and (for parents only) a report at least annually of their own child's progress. The safeguarding policy is posted on the school's website.
- 2.18 The standard relating to the provision of information [paragraph 32] is met.**

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

2.19 Parental complaints, if any, are handled effectively through a three-stage process, (informal, formal and a hearing before a panel of three, one of whom is independent of the school). Each stage has clear time scales, and at the third stage the panel can make findings and recommendations which are communicated to the complainant. Records are kept appropriately, including of any action taken, whether or not a complaint is successful.

2.20 The standard relating to the handling of complaints [paragraph 33] is met.

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.21 The proprietor has not ensured that the leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge, and fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the other standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the well-being of the pupils.

2.22 The standard relating to leadership and management of the school in paragraph 34 is not met.

Action point 6

The school must ensure effective oversight of recruitment procedures and the maintenance of premises so that standards are met consistently and the well-being of pupils is actively promoted [paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)].

3. Inspection Evidence

- 3.1 The inspectors observed lessons, had discussions with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff and with the chair of governors and attended form and other pupil meetings. Inspectors visited the learning support and educational resource areas. Inspectors considered the responses of parents, staff and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires. The inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Stephen Fox

Reporting inspector

Mrs Sylvia Brett

Compliance team inspector (Principal, GSA school)