



ISI Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report

Darul Uloom Islamic High School

December 2021

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School's Details

School	Darul Uloom Islamic High School	
DfE number	330/6078	
Address	Darul Uloom Islamic High School 521-527 Coventry Road Small Heath Birmingham West Midlands B10 0LL	
Telephone number	01216 886507	
Email address	contact@darululoom.org.uk	
Headteacher	Mr Azharul Islam	
Proprietor	Jami Mosque & Islamic Centre	
Age range	11 to 16	
Number of pupils on roll	135	
	Seniors	135
Inspection dates	08 to 10 December 2021	

1. Background Information

About the school

- 1.1 Darul Uloom Islamic High School is an independent day school for male pupils aged between 11 and 16. The school was founded in 1985 and is managed by the adjacent Jami Mosque and Islamic Centre. Members of the mosque act as trustees and provide governance, supported by a number of advisors from the local community. The school day is divided into a morning session of Islamic Studies and an afternoon session during which pupils study a range of national curriculum subjects. Since the previous inspection, the school has appointed a new headteacher and chair of trustees.
- 1.2 During the period March to August 2020, the whole school was closed. During this period of closure the school provided remote learning materials for all pupils.
- 1.3 In the interests of infection control during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, inspection evidence was gathered partly remotely and partly on site to reduce contact within the school setting.
- 1.4 In line with the direction given by the Department for Education (DfE) at the time, no evaluation has been made of the nature or effectiveness of any provision made during the period March to August 2020, including its impact on pupils' learning, achievement or personal development. Any concerns relating to pupils' welfare during this period which directly relate to measures implemented by the school have been considered.
- 1.5 During the lockdown period of January to March 2021, all pupils received remote learning provision at home.
- 1.6 In 2020 and 2021, public examinations were not held. For pupils who would have been expected to take these examinations, centre-assessed grades and, in 2021, teacher-assessed grades were awarded.

What the school seeks to do

- 1.7 The school's aim is to inspire respectful, law-abiding, tolerant British Muslims versed in Islamic knowledge, to be models for their respective communities. It seeks to inspire pupils to excel academically in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, understanding and solidarity where they put Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him) at the heart of everything they do.

About the pupils

- 1.8 Pupils come from Muslim families living in the local area. Nationally standardised test data provided by the school indicates that the ability of the pupils in the school is average. The school has not identified any pupils as having special education needs or disabilities (SEND) and no pupil has an education health care (EHC) plan. The school has identified all pupils as having English as an additional language.

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](#).

COVID-19: Inspection judgements do not cover the period March to August 2020 inclusive.

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 2018 to 2021 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 in the senior school, 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 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.
- 2.9 However, due regard has not been paid to current statutory guidance, as the safeguarding policy does not have due regard for *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021*. Staff safeguarding training is delivered regularly. However, there is not an effective process in place to ensure that training is provided for those staff who are unable to attend, or to ensure that all staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities in promoting the welfare of pupils. Whilst the school has remedied some policy deficiencies during the inspection, the proprietor has not ensured that due regard is paid to all statutory guidance when revising the policy. Some suitability checks required on those responsible for governance have not been completed prior to appointment.
- 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 that in paragraph 7 [safeguarding] is not met.**

Action point 1

The school must ensure that the safeguarding policy pays full regard to the latest statutory guidance [paragraph 7(a) and 7(b)].

Action point 2

The school must ensure that all staff are fully trained and cognisant of their roles and responsibilities [paragraph 7(a) and 7(b)].

Action point 3

The school must ensure that a barred list check has been completed for all trustees prior to appointment, as required by statutory guidance [paragraph 7(a) and 7(b)].

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

- 2.11 The school makes appropriate checks to ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors, and a register is kept as required.
- 2.12 **The standards relating to the suitability of those in contact with pupils at the school [paragraphs 17–21] are met.**

PART 5 – Premises of and accommodation at schools

- 2.13 Suitable toilet and changing facilities, and showering facilities where required by the standard, and appropriate accommodation for pupils' medical and therapy needs are provided. The premises are maintained to a standard commensurate with health and safety; acoustics and lighting are appropriate; water provision is adequate. Suitable outdoor space is provided for physical education and outdoor play.
- 2.14 **The standards relating to the premises and accommodation [paragraphs 22–31] are met.**

PART 6 – Provision of information

- 2.15 A range of information is made available to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education on request to the school office. This includes details about the curriculum, 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.
- 2.16 Other information that is required to be provided by the school, including details of the proprietor, the ethos of the school and the safeguarding policy have not been readily provided during the period in which the school's website has been unavailable.
- 2.17 **The standard relating to the provision of information in paragraph 32 is not met.**

Action point 4

The school must ensure that all required information is provided to parents, inspectors and the Department for Education [paragraph 32(1)(a), 32(2)(a), 32(2)(b)(ii), 32(2)(c) and 32(2)(d)].

PART 7 – Manner in which complaints are handled

- 2.18 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.

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

PART 8 – Quality of leadership in and management of schools

2.20 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.

2.21 The proprietor has not ensured that all staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities in promoting the welfare of pupils. Whilst the school has remedied some policy deficiencies during the inspection, the proprietor has not ensured that due regard is paid to all statutory guidance when revising the policy. Staff safeguarding training is not adequate. Furthermore, suitability checks on those responsible for governance, have not been completed on time. Information that is required to be provided by the school has not been readily provided during the period in which the school's website has been unavailable.

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

Action point 5

The school must ensure 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 [paragraph 34(1)(a), (b) and (c)].

3. Inspection Evidence

- 3.1 The inspectors observed lessons, conducted formal interviews with pupils and examined samples of pupils' work. They held discussions with members of staff and with the chair of trustees, observed a sample of the extra-curricular activities that occurred during the inspection period, and attended form meetings. Inspectors visited the educational resource areas. The responses of parents, staff and pupils to pre-inspection questionnaires were analysed, and the inspectors examined curriculum and other documentation made available by the school.

Inspectors

Mr Chris Manville

Reporting inspector

Dr Jonathan Ewington

Compliance team inspector (Assistant head, SofH school)