



Department
for Education

**Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE**

Direct line: [REDACTED]

Proprietor
Al Ashraaf Secondary School
102-105 Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7RA

Our ref: 211/6007

18 October 2017

Dear Proprietor

I refer to the inspection by Ofsted that was carried out at the above school under section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 between 4 and 6 July 2017. You will see from the enclosed report that Ofsted noted serious regulatory failings.

Taking account of the report the Secretary of State is satisfied, pursuant to section 114(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, that any one or more of the independent school standards¹ is or are not being met in relation to the school.

In these circumstances I enclose a Notice, served by the Secretary of State for Education under section 114(5) of the 2008 Act, requiring an Action Plan which details the steps that will be taken to meet all of the standards set out in the Annex to the Notice and the time by which each step will be taken, to be submitted by 17 November 2017.

You are reminded that the independent school standards require that a copy of the inspection report is sent to parents and a copy is published on the school's website or, where no such website exists, is provided to parents on request. This will be checked at the next inspection.

The Action Plan must contain reasonable timescales for implementation within which the necessary action will be taken and it is expected that the implementation dates given in the Action Plan should not extend beyond 18 January 2018. A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan.

¹ [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014 \(SI 2014/3283\)](#)

The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 17 November 2017. If this date is not met, the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the period during which you may appeal).

I must warn you that the Secretary of State may reject an Action Plan, and in these circumstances the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the appeal period).

If an Action Plan is accepted, Ofsted may be asked to visit the school again to check that the school has fully implemented the plan and that it is fully meeting the independent school standards.

You may wish to note that this letter, the enclosed Notice and Annex will be published shortly on the Gov.uk website.

Yours faithfully



Independent Education and Boarding Team

SECTION 114(5) OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008

NOTICE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

**IN RELATION TO
AL ASHRAAF SECONDARY SCHOOL, 102-105 WHITECHAPEL HIGH
STREET, LONDON, E1 7RA
("the School")**

WHEREAS

The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England² –

- (i) has taken into account a report in respect of an inspection of the School by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills which was conducted between 4 and 6 July 2017; and
- (ii) is satisfied that the independent school standards, as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, specified in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School.

NOW THEREFORE

In exercise of the power conferred upon her by section 114(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the Secretary of State serves the following Notice on the proprietor of the School:

- (1) the independent school standards set out in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School; and
- (2) the proprietor of the School is required to submit an action plan³ to the Secretary of State specifying the steps that will be taken to meet the standards, and the time by which each step will be taken, on or before 17 November 2017


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date 18/10/2017

² The Secretary of State is required to keep a register of independent educational institutions in England under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. "Independent educational institution" is defined in section 92(1) of that Act as an independent school and an independent provider of part-time education. Independent providers of part-time education are not currently regulated so effectively the requirement under section 95(1) is for the Secretary of State to keep a register of independent schools.

³ An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX TO NOTICE

AL ASHRAAF SECONDARY SCHOOL, 102-105 WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, LONDON, E1 7RA ("the school")

The following independent school standards, as prescribed in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, are not being met in relation to the school:

PART 1: Quality of education provided

1. *The standards about the quality of education provided at the school are those contained in this Part.*

2.(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if—

(a) the proprietor ensures that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively; and

(b) the written policy, plans and schemes of work—

(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan; and

(ii) do not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(1)(a), the matters are—

(a) full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), which gives pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;

(b) that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills;

(d) personal, social, health and economic education which—

(i) reflects the school's aim and ethos; and

(ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act⁴;

(e) for pupils receiving secondary education, access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that—

(i) is presented in an impartial manner;

(ii) enables them to make informed choices about a broad range of career options; and

⁴ The protected characteristics are set out in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Equality Act 2010.

(iii) helps to encourage them to fulfil their potential;

(h) that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress; and

(i) effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

3. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school—

(a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;

(b) fosters in pupils self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves;

(c) involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;

(d) shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;

(f) utilises effectively classroom resources of a good quality, quantity and range;

(g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress; and

(i) does not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

4. The standard in this paragraph is met where the proprietor ensures that a framework for pupil performance to be evaluated, by reference to the school's own aims as provided to parents or national norms, or to both, is in place.

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

5. The standard about the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school is met if the proprietor—

(a) actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;

(b) ensures that principles are actively promoted which—

(v) further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; and

(vi) encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act.

PART 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

6. The standards about the welfare, health and safety of pupils at the school are those contained in this Part.

7. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and

(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

9. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor promotes good behaviour amongst pupils by ensuring that—

(b) the policy is implemented effectively; and

(c) a record is kept of the sanctions imposed upon pupils for serious misbehaviour.

15. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that an admission and attendance register is maintained in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006⁵.

16. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and

(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

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

17. The standards about the suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors are those contained in this Part.

18. (1) The standard in this paragraph relates to the suitability of persons appointed as members of staff at the school, other than the proprietor and supply staff.

(2) The standard in this paragraph is met if—

⁵ S.I. 2006/1751, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(a) no such person is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act where that person is or will be engaging in activity which is regulated activity within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to that Act;

(b) no such person carries out work, or intends to carry out work, at the school in contravention of a prohibition order, an interim prohibition order, or any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act, or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in either such direction;

(c) the proprietor carries out appropriate checks to confirm in respect of each such person—

(i) the person's identity;

(ii) the person's medical fitness;

(iii) the person's right to work in the United Kingdom; and

(iv) where appropriate, the person's qualifications;

(d) the proprietor ensures that, where relevant to any such person, an enhanced criminal record check is made in respect of that person and an enhanced criminal record certificate is obtained before or as soon as practicable after that person's appointment; and

(e) in the case of any person for whom, by reason of that person living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining such a certificate is not sufficient to establish the person's suitability to work in a school, such further checks are made as the proprietor considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State,

and in the light of the information from the checks referred to in paragraphs (c) to (e) the proprietor considers that the person is suitable for the position to which the person is appointed.

(3) The checks referred to in sub-paragraphs (2)(c) and (except where sub-paragraph (4) applies) (2)(e) must be completed before a person's appointment.

(4) The checks specified in sub-paragraphs (2)(d) and (e) do not need to be carried out where the new member of staff ("M") has worked in—

(a) a school or a maintained school in England in a position which brought M regularly into contact with children or young persons;

(b) a maintained school in England in a position to which M was appointed on or after 12th May 2006 and which did not bring M regularly into contact with children or young persons; or

(c) an institution within the further education sector in England or in a 16 to 19 Academy in a position which involved the provision of education or which brought M regularly into contact with children or young persons,

during a period which ended not more than three months before M's appointment.

20. (1) The standard in this paragraph relates to the suitability of the proprietor of the school.

(6) The standard in this paragraph is met in relation to an individual ("MB"), not being the Chair of the school, who is a member of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate named as the proprietor of the school in the register or in an application to enter the school in the register, if—

(a) MB—

(i) is not barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act where that individual is or will be engaging in activity which is regulated activity within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to that Act; and

(ii) does not carry out work, or intend to carry out work, at the school in contravention of a prohibition order, an interim prohibition order, or any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in either such direction;

(b) subject to sub-paragraph (8), the Chair of the school makes the following checks relating to MB—

(i) where relevant to the individual, an enhanced criminal record check;

(ii) checks confirming MB's identity and MB's right to work in the United Kingdom; and

(iii) where, by reason of MB's living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, obtaining an enhanced criminal record certificate is not sufficient to establish MB's suitability to work in a school, such further checks as the Chair of the school

considers appropriate, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State;

and, where an enhanced criminal record check is made, the Chair obtains an enhanced criminal record certificate relating to the individual; and

(c) subject to sub-paragraph (8), where the Secretary of State makes a request for an enhanced criminal record check relating to MB countersigned by the Secretary of State to be made, such a check is made.

21. (1) The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor keeps a register which shows such of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (3) to (7).

(2) The register referred to in sub-paragraph (1) may be kept in electronic form, provided that the information so recorded is capable of being reproduced in legible form.

(3) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is—

(a) in relation to each member of staff (“S”) appointed on or after 1st May 2007, whether—

(i) S’s identity was checked;

(ii) a check was made to establish whether S is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the 2006 Act;

(iii) a check was made to establish whether S is subject to any direction made under section 128 of the 2008 Act or section 142 of the 2002 Act or any disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction;

(iv) checks were made to ensure, where appropriate, that S had the relevant qualifications;

(v) an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained in respect of S;

(vi) checks were made pursuant to paragraph 18(2)(d);

(vii) a check of S’s right to work in the United Kingdom was made; and

(viii) checks were made pursuant to paragraph 18(2)(e),

including the date on which each such check was completed or the certificate obtained; and

(b) in relation to each member of staff (“S”), whether a check was made to establish whether S is subject to a prohibition order or an interim prohibition order, including the date on which such check was completed.

(4) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation to each member of staff in post on 1st August 2007 who was appointed at any time before 1st May 2007, whether each check referred to in sub-paragraph (3) was made and whether an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained, together with the date on which any check was completed or certificate obtained.

(5) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation to supply staff—

(a) whether written notification has been received from the employment business that—

(i) checks corresponding to those referred to in sub-paragraph (3)(a)(i) to (iv), (vi) and (vii) have been made to the extent relevant to any such person; and

(ii) an enhanced criminal record check has been made and that it or another employment business has obtained an enhanced criminal record certificate in response to such a check,

together with the date the written notification that each such check was made, or certificate obtained, was received; and

(c) where written notification has been received from the employment business in accordance with a contract or other arrangements referred to in paragraph 19(2)(d)⁶ that it has obtained an enhanced criminal record certificate, whether the employment business supplied a copy of the certificate to the school.

(6) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation each member (“MB”) of a body of persons named as the proprietor appointed on or after 1st May 2007, whether the checks referred to in paragraph 20(6)(b) were

⁶ 19(2)(d) the proprietor, in the contract or other arrangements which the proprietor makes with any employment business, requires the employment business to provide—(i) the notification referred to in paragraph (a)(i); and (ii) a copy of any enhanced criminal record certificate which the employment business obtains, in respect of any person whom the employment business supplies to the school.

made, the date they were made and the date on which the resulting certificate was obtained.

(7) The information referred to in this sub-paragraph is, in relation to each member of a body of persons named as the proprietor in post on 1st August 2007 who was appointed at any time before 1st May 2007—

(a) whether each check referred to in sub-paragraph (6) was made; and

(b) whether an enhanced criminal record certificate was obtained, together with the date on which any check was completed or certificate obtained.

(8) It is immaterial for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (3), (4), (5)(a) and (b), (6) and (7) whether the check was made or certificate obtained pursuant to a legal obligation.

PART 5: Premises of and accommodation at schools

22. The standards about the premises of and accommodation at the school are those contained in this Part.

25. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the school premises and the accommodation and facilities provided therein are maintained to a standard such that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of pupils are ensured.

PART 6: Provision of information

32. (1) The standard about the provision of information by the school is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(f) an annual written report of each registered pupil's progress and attainment in the main subject areas taught is provided to the parents of that registered pupil except that no report need be provided where the parent has agreed otherwise.

PART 8: Quality of leadership in and management of schools

34. (1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school—

(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;

(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and

(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c) “well-being” means well-being within the meaning of section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004⁷.

⁷ 2004 c.31.