



Department
for Education

Bishopsgate House
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The Proprietor
The Branch Christian School
Dewsbury Gospel Church
West Park Street
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF13 4LA

registration.enquiries@education.gov.uk

Our ref: 382/6018

Date: 11 February 2019

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 20 and 22 November 2018. You will see from the enclosed report that Ofsted noted serious regulatory failings.

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 11 March 2019.

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 13 May 2019. A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan.

The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 11 March 2019. 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(es) 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
THE BRANCH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, DEWSBURY GOSPEL CHURCH,
WEST PARK STREET, DEWSBURY, WEST YORKSHIRE WF13 4LA
("the School")**

WHEREAS

The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England¹ –

(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 20 and 22 November 2018; 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 him 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 plan² 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 13 May 2019


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date: 11 February 2019

¹ 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.

² An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX TO NOTICE

THE BRANCH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, DEWSBURY GOSPEL CHURCH, WEST PARK STREET, DEWSBURY, WEST YORKSHIRE WF13 4LA ("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) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(1)(a), the matters are—

(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

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

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.

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

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—

(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;

(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.

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.