



Department
for Education

The Proprietor
Bnei Zion Community School
49-51 Ravensdale Road
London
N16 6TJ

BNEI ZION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**IEU
Level 3, Riverside
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE**

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Our ref: 204/6001

Date: 26 March 2025

Dear Proprietor

**NOTICE TO IMPOSE RELEVANT RESTRICTION – SECTION 116(1)(A) OF THE
EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008**

I refer to an inspection carried out by His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills ("HMCI") between 12-14 November 2024 at Bnei Zion Community School ("the School") under s.109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act").

You will see from the enclosed report of that inspection ("the November 2024 inspection report"), which has been published, that the inspection found a number of failings relating to the Independent School Standards ("the ISS").

The Secretary of State has been satisfied, taking into the account the inspection history relating to the school (including that detailed in the November 2024 inspection report), that there are one or more failings to meet the ISS in relation to the school. In addition, she is of the view that the seriousness and extent of the failings identified in the November 2024 inspection report warrants the taking of enforcement action. In particular, it appears that the quality of education and the leadership and management of the school failed to meet the relevant standards in the ISS. Furthermore, for the reasons set out below in this letter, the condition in section 115(4) of the Act for taking enforcement action against a proprietor has been met in relation to the school. The Secretary of State has, therefore, decided to impose a 'relevant restriction' on the proprietor of the school. The effect of the specific restriction which the Secretary of State has decided to impose will be, when it takes effect, that no new pupils may be admitted to the school.

Decision to proceed with enforcement action

Taking account of the report relating to the November 2024 inspection carried out by HMCI, the Secretary of State is satisfied, for the purposes of section 115(1) of the Act, that a number of the ISS are not being met in relation to the School. Given the fact that the Secretary of State, by a notice dated 26 July 2023, required the production of an action plan (which was rejected on 8 November 2023) with a further non-compliance inspection on 1 February 2024, and that the Secretary of State has not at any time, since the requirement was imposed, been satisfied that the School is meeting all of the ISS, one of

the conditions referred to in section 115(3) of the Act is met for the purpose of taking enforcement action in relation to the proprietor of the School (specifically, the condition contained in section 115(4) of the Act is satisfied). Therefore, the Secretary of State is authorised to take the enforcement action specified under section 116 of the Act in relation to the proprietor of the School.

Having the power to take enforcement action under s.116 of the Act, and having considered whether any, and what sort of, enforcement action under section 116 of the Act would be appropriate, the Secretary of State has decided to impose the following relevant restriction (see section 117 of the Act and in particular subsection (1)(c)):

The proprietor of Bnei Zion Community School, 49-51 Ravensdale Road, London N16 6TJ, is required to cease to admit any new pupils to that school and that this requirement is to start to apply immediately after the 28-day period stipulated in section 125(2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008 for making an appeal against the decision to impose this relevant restriction has expired.

The 28-day period referred to above will begin with the date on which the attached notice is served on the proprietor. Our working assumption is that notice will be served on the proprietor after the end of two working days following the date of this letter. On this assumption, the proprietor will be prohibited from admitting new pupils to the school after 25 April 2025, in the event that no appeal is made by the proprietor to the First-Tier Tribunal within the 28-day period. The annex to the attached notice sets out the regulatory failings which have led to the decision to impose this relevant restriction. The proprietor of the school may apply to the Secretary of State to have the relevant restriction revoked or varied under section 118(4) of the Act. Such an application would be approved only if the Secretary of State was satisfied that it would be appropriate to do so because of any change in circumstances. In particular, the extent to which the ISS are then being met would be of significance to the Secretary of State's consideration of any such application. There is no time limit on when a proprietor may make an application to the Secretary of State under section 118(4) of the Act.

The proprietor also has the right under section 125(1)(a) of the Act to appeal against the decision to impose this relevant restriction to the First-Tier Tribunal. Any appeal must be made, in writing, within 28 days of the date on which the attached notice is served on the proprietor. If an appeal is made by the proprietor within the required time limit, then the relevant restriction will not take effect until such time as the appeal is determined, withdrawn or otherwise disposed of. The relevant contact details are: HM Courts and Tribunal Service, 1st Floor, Darlington Magistrate's Court, Parkgate, Darlington DL1 1 RU. Telephone 01325 289350.

It is an offence for a proprietor to fail to comply with a relevant restriction which has taken effect, with penalties of up to six months' imprisonment and/or a fine (for which there is no maximum set in the Act (see section 118(2) of the Act and section 85 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012).

Continued failure to comply with the ISS may also result in the Secretary of State deciding that it is appropriate to remove the school from the register of independent schools.

Yours faithfully,



Sue Whitehouse

Deputy Director

Independent Education and School Safeguarding Division **SECTION 116(1)(b) AND (2) OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008¹**

(‘the Act’)

**NOTICE OF THE DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION TO
IMPOSE A RELEVANT RESTRICTION ON THE FOLLOWING INDEPENDENT
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: TO THE PROPRIETOR**

**BNEI ZION COMMUNITY SCHOOL
49-51 RAVENSDALE ROAD, LONDON, N16 6TJ
204/6001**

WHEREAS

The Secretary of State for Education, being the regulator of independent schools in England,

- (i) having been satisfied (taking into account a report of an inspection by His Majesty’s Chief

Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills (“HMCI”) carried out between 6-8 December 2016 that a number of the independent school standards (as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014²) and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) were not being met in relation to the School, served a notice (pursuant to section 114 of the Act) dated 31 March 2017 on the school’s proprietor (‘the proprietor’) requiring the submission of an action plan³ on or before 30 April 2017;

- (ii) received an action plan on 19 May 2017 from the proprietor;

- (iii) decided to reject said action plan under section 114(6)(b) of the Act, and informed the proprietor of that decision by a letter dated 8 December 2017;

- (iv) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 30 January 2018 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards and EYFS were not being met in relation to the School;

- (v) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 20-22 November 2018 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards and EYFS were not being met in relation to the School;

- (vi) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 3-5 December 2019 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School

¹ c.25.

² SI 2014/3283.

³ An action plan for the purposes of section 114 of the Act is a plan which specifies the steps that will be taken to meet a standard or standards, and the time by which each step will be taken (section 114(4)).

Standards and EYFS were not being met in relation to the School, requested a non-statutory action plan which was subsequently rejected;

(vii) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 13-15 September 2022 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards and EYFS were not being met in relation to the School, served a notice (pursuant to section 114 of the Act) dated 24 January 2023 on the school's proprietor requiring the submission of an action plan on or before 24 February 2023;

(viii) received an action plan on 24 February 2023 from the proprietor;

(ix) decided to reject said action plan under section 114(6)(b) of the Act, and informed the proprietor of that decision by a letter dated 15 May 2023;

(x) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 21-23 June 2023 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards and EYFS were not being met in relation to the School, served a notice (pursuant to section

114 of the Act) dated 26 July 2023 on the school's proprietor requiring the submission of an action plan on or before 26 September 2023;

(xi) received an action plan on 27 September 2023 from the proprietor;

(xii) decided to reject said action plan under section 114(6)(b) of the Act, and informed the proprietor of that decision by a letter dated 8 November 2023;

(xiii) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 1 February 2024 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards were not being met in relation to the School;

(xiv) having received a further report of an Inspection by HMCI of the School carried out on 12-14 November 2024 to the effect that the standards from the Independent School Standards were not being met in relation to the School, and the requirements from the EYFS specified in the Annexes to this notice were not being met in relation to the School, and having taken into account the report of that inspection is satisfied that a number of the independent educational institution standards are not being met in relation to the School; and

(xv) being permitted to take enforcement action under section 115(3) and 116 of the Act because the condition in section 115(4) of the Act is met (specifically that the proprietor has been required to submit an action plan under section 114 of the Act within the 3 year period specified in section 115(4)(a) of the Act, and that the action plan was submitted but rejected by the Secretary of State);

(xvi) has decided to impose the following relevant restriction⁴:

NOW THEREFORE –

Notice is hereby given to the proprietor, for the purposes of section 116(2) of the Act that the Secretary of State has decided under section 116(1)(a) of that Act to impose the following relevant restrictions:

⁴ 'Relevant restriction' is defined in section 117(1) of the Act – see in particular section 117(1)(c).

(1) to cease to admit any new students.

By virtue of section 116(3) of the Act, the decision in question does not take effect during the period in which (a) an appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal may be brought against it under section 124⁵ of the Act or (b) where such an appeal is brought, the appeal has not been determined, withdrawn or disposed of.

Signed

Date: 26 March 2025



Sue Whitehouse

Deputy Director

Independent Education and School Safeguarding Division

⁵ Any appeal under the section 124 must be brought within the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which notice of the decision is served on the proprietor (section 124(2) of the Act).

ANNEX 1 TO NOTICE

**BNEI ZION COMMUNITY SCHOOL
49-51 RAVENSDALE ROAD
LONDON
N16 6TJ
("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.
- (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;
 - (d) personal, social, health and economic education which—
 - (ii) encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act⁶;
 - (f) where the school has pupils below compulsory school age, a programme of activities which is appropriate to their educational needs in relation to personal, social, emotional and physical development and communication and language skills; and
 - (i) effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

⁶ The protected characteristics are set out in Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Equality Act 2010.

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;

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

(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.

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 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; and

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

ANNEX 2 TO NOTICE

**BNEI ZION COMMUNITY SCHOOL
49-51 RAVENSDALE ROAD
LONDON
N16 6TJ
("the School")**

The following requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are not being met in relation to the School:

Section 1 – The learning and development requirements

1.15 The provider must ensure children have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language during the early years foundation stage, ensuring children are ready to benefit from the opportunities available to them when they begin Year 1.