

# Palfrey Girls School

18 October 2016

72 Queen Mary Street, Palfrey, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 4AB

## Overall outcome

**The school meets all of the independent school standards that were checked during this inspection**

## Main inspection findings

### Part 1. Quality of education provided

#### *Paragraphs 2(1), 2(1)(b), 2(1)(b)(i)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were weaknesses in the implementation and effectiveness of the school's curriculum policy.
- Since then, leaders have ensured that the curriculum policy is implemented effectively and is well supported by plans and schemes of work across the curriculum. The curriculum policy has been published on the school's website.
- Schemes of work have been put in place for all the subjects taught in the school. These include religious education, mathematics, literacy and personal, social, health and economic education, for example. They are likely to support better teaching and therefore increase pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding.
- As a result, these standards are now met.

#### *Paragraphs 3, 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were a number of weaknesses in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. The progress monitoring inspection in July 2016 found that there were still weaknesses with resources in the classrooms, library and playground.
- Leaders have made some improvements to the range and quantity of resources. For example, some classrooms have been reorganised, computers are now working more efficiently and textbooks are more easily available. Staff have started work to create a library area and improve the usefulness of displays around the school. Leaders agree that this work is still at an early stage.
- Leaders have ambitious plans in place to make improvements to the Reception classroom, outdoor learning area and the playground. They are working closely with local organisations, religious leaders, the local authority and national companies to gain support and funding for these projects.
- Observations and records show that teaching has improved and that staff have a better understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils. Evidence shows that pupils are keen to learn, have high attendance and are very respectful of each other and the adults in school. Some staff training has taken place since the last inspection and there are appropriate plans for further training, especially for unqualified teachers, for example.
- The school council has been elected for this year and has decided to create additional roles within the council. It has a number of projects for the year ahead,

including anti-bullying and equality. Leaders have listened to pupils' wishes to eat their lunch at tables in the hall. These are examples of pupils having a greater say in important matters and the improvement of the educational provision in their school.

- Pupils behave very well and their personal development is well supported by the curriculum on offer and the impartial careers education provided. The curriculum also includes fundamental British values as part of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and helps the pupils to be well prepared for life in modern Britain. For example, the school holds an annual 'diversity day', celebrates International Women's Day and invites an appropriate and diverse range of visitors into school to speak to the pupils.
- As a result of the above, these standards are now met.

## Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Not applicable for this inspection.

## Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

### *Paragraphs 7, 7(a), 7(b)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were a number of weaknesses in the safeguarding arrangements in the school.
- The progress monitoring inspection in July found that a range of improvements had been made to safeguarding. Since then, staff have received training on the latest Department for Education statutory guidance and know who to contact directly if they have a concern about a pupil's welfare. A 'safeguarding committee' has very recently been created and will have the role of ensuring that all policies, procedures and checks are always up to date, for example.
- As a result, these standards are now met.

## Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

### *Paragraphs 18(2), 18(2)(b), 21(1), 21(3), 21(3)(a), 21(3)(a)(iii)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were several weaknesses on the checks leaders had carried out on staff to ensure that they were safe to work with children.
- Improvements were noted at the progress monitoring inspection in July and these have been continued. Any new staff, volunteers and members of the interim executive board who have joined the school since then have also been fully checked. In addition, the proprietor has ensured that anyone in a leadership position is not disqualified or prohibited from leading and managing a school.
- As a result, these standards are now met.

## Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Not applicable for this inspection.

## Part 6. Provision of information

### *Paragraphs 32(1), 32(1)(c)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that the school's website did not contain all of the statutory information required for an independent school, such as the school's safeguarding policy.
- Since then, leaders have added some information to the school's website, including their latest safeguarding policy. Leaders agree that further work is needed to bring the website fully up to date so that it is beneficial for parents and pupils and meets the Department for Education's statutory requirements.
- Overall, these standards are now met.

## Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

Not applicable for this inspection.

## Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

### *Paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c)*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were weaknesses in the quality of education provided at the school, safeguarding and pupils' welfare, health and safety. As a result of these unmet standards, a number of weaknesses were identified in leadership and management.
- The progress monitoring inspection in July found a number of improvements as a result of a more rigorous approach by new leaders. A new headteacher has taken up post since the first progress monitoring inspection. Evidence suggests that these improvements have been continued and the overall provision of education at the school continues to develop. The chair of the interim executive board continues to provide strong leadership and is well supported by other members of the board. All leaders and managers are realistic about the work still required to significantly improve the resources, quality of education and the overall effectiveness of the school.
- As a result of all standards now being met and the improvements made to the education provided, the standards for leadership and management are now also met.

## Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

- Leaders have made arrangements to meet the requirements of paragraph 3 of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010.

## Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

### *Paragraphs 3.4, 3.14, 3.45*

- The full inspection in October 2015 found that there were weaknesses in the safeguarding procedures, assessment and resourcing of the early years provision.
- Since then, whole-school safeguarding and assessment procedures have been improved. Leaders agree that resources and access to outdoor learning to further develop children's physical skills, for example, are still limited. At the time of this progress monitoring inspection, leaders shared plans to improve access to outdoor

learning spaces. Although the minimum early years standards are met, leaders are aware that this aspect of the school will be looked at in more detail during the school's next full inspection.

- Overall, these standards are now met.

## **Compliance with regulatory requirements**

The school meets the requirements of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements that were checked during this inspection. This included the standards and requirements that the school was judged to not comply with at the previous inspection. Not all of the standards and associated requirements were checked during this inspection.

## School details

Unique reference number	104627
DfE registration number	335/6008
Inspection number	10025654

This inspection was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school.

Type of school	Muslim faith school
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	4 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	197
Number of part-time pupils	0
Proprietor	Mr B Lorgat
Chair	Mrs F Kholwadia
Headteacher	Ms J Collins
Annual fees (day pupils)	£1,050 (primary), £,1500 (secondary)
Telephone number	01922 625510
Website	<a href="http://palfreygirlsschool.org">palfreygirlsschool.org</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:admin@palfreygirlsschool.org">admin@palfreygirlsschool.org</a>
Date of previous standard inspection	29 September – 1 October 2015

## Information about this school

- Palfrey Girls School is an independent Muslim day school for pupils aged between four and 16 years. The primary phase, including the Reception Year, admits both boys and girls. The secondary phase admits only girls.
- The school opened in October 1993 and is housed in a former residential home. The school is registered for 242 pupils.
- Since the previous inspection in July 2016, a new headteacher and several new teachers have been appointed. In addition, some internal building work has taken place.
- The school is governed by an interim executive board.
- The school's vision, values and aims include: 'We aim to develop our students to fulfil their potential intellectually, socially, economically, and culturally to demonstrate to themselves, their families and the wider community that social deprivation, gender or ethnicity need be no barrier to the highest levels of

achievement...in which tolerance and understanding of other values and beliefs is at the heart of our ethos to equip our students to play a vital role in building a more cohesive society both nationally and globally.'

- The school offers secular and Islamic education.
- All pupils are British and of Asian origin. Almost all pupils speak English as their first language.
- There are no pupils who are known to be eligible for the pupil premium funding, which is additional government funding for those pupils known to be eligible to receive free school meals or who are looked after by the local authority.
- There are no pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The school does not make use of alternative provision. The school does not run any off-site units.
- Children in the Reception class attend on a full-time basis.
- Little Stars Nursery shares the same site and some resources, but is independent of the school and inspected separately.

## Information about this inspection

- This inspection was carried out at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. The purpose of the inspection was to monitor the progress the school has made in meeting the independent school standards and other requirements that it was judged not to comply with at its previous inspection. The inspection was unannounced.
- The last full inspection was in October 2015, when the overall effectiveness of the school was judged as inadequate. Another progress monitoring inspection was carried out in July 2016, when inspectors found that a small number of the independent school standards were not met.
- The school's action plan to address the findings from the last full inspection was evaluated by Ofsted in February 2016. The outcome of the evaluation was that the school's action plan required improvement.
- The inspector visited most classrooms with the headteacher and some members of the interim executive board. Learning in some pupils' workbooks was evaluated during the classroom visits.
- Discussions took place with pupils, the headteacher and members of the interim executive board, other leaders and administrative staff.
- The inspection team scrutinised a wide range of documentation, including the school's most recent action plans, safeguarding and child protection information. Other documents were examined to check the school's compliance with the independent school standards and to provide evidence of the school's progress since the last inspection.

## Inspection team

Stuart Bellworthy, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

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