

Wiznitz Cheder School

126b Stamford Hill, Hackney, London N16 6QT

Inspection date 26 May 2016

Overall outcome **Unmet independent school standards identified**

Reason for the inspection

- This unannounced emergency inspection was conducted at the request of the Department for Education (DfE), the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. The purpose of this inspection was to check the school's compliance with the independent school standards and to check on current staffing arrangements at the school. The inspection was conducted without notice.
- This inspection evaluated if the school was complying with the following independent school standards: Part 3, welfare, health and safety of pupils, paragraph 7, 7(a), 7(b), 14, 16, 16(a), 16(b); and Part 8, the quality of leadership in and management of schools, all paragraphs.

Main findings

- The school does not meet the independent school standards for Part 3, welfare, health and safety of pupils. Therefore, the proprietor has failed to ensure the school meets the standards relating to Part 8, the quality of leadership in and management of schools.
- Leaders do not ensure that the safeguarding policy is readily available for parents. The versions of policies that are available and used by the school are not compliant with the most recent statutory guidance from the Secretary of State for Education.
- The safeguarding policy does not outline how child protection concerns relating to the headteacher or proprietor would be handled. It fails to outline who such concerns should be taken to by parents or members of the community. The policy does not make clear that concerns about staff must be reported by the designated safeguarding officer to the local authority designated officer. The policy contains inaccurate information which suggests that the school will refer such safeguarding concerns to the Department of Health.
- Leaders do not ensure the well-being and safety of pupils during morning break. The inspector observed pupils playing on the school yard with litter strewn across it. Staff had failed to remove plastic bags, black bin liners, cake wrappers or plastic cups. Consequently, these items posed a health and safety risk for pupils. The failure to remove the litter also showed that pupils are not well supervised and that hazards are not consistently removed to keep pupils safe.
- Leaders undertake monitoring of the potential hazards around the school building and grounds. However, it is unclear what steps are taken to reduce risks when possible hazards are identified. Leaders have recorded identified risks for key stages 1 and 2 in Hebrew rather than English.
- The inspector identified an area of the playground with a range of dangerous equipment. This equipment was hazardous to children and while it was fenced off, a break in the fencing meant that a pupil could easily access this area.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and associated requirements.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

- Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school (paragraph 7(a)).
- Ensure that arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 7(b)).
- Ensure that relevant health and safety laws are complied with by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written health and safety policy (paragraph 11).
- Ensure that pupils are properly supervised through the appropriate deployment of school staff (paragraph 14).
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified, in order that 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 appropriate actions are taken to reduce risks that are identified and that these are recorded in English (paragraphs (16), 16(a) and (16)(b)).

Part 8. Quality of leadership and management of schools

- Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school fulfil their responsibilities effectively, so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and that they actively promote the well-being of pupils (paragraphs 34(1), 34(1) (a), 34(1)(b) and (34(1)(c)).

Inspection team

David Storrie, lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Wiznitz Cheder is an Orthodox Jewish primary school for boys. It opened in January 2011. The school provides Jewish studies and a secular education for local Orthodox Jewish communities. It aims to assist every learner to reach his potential and to 'develop respect for the environment and an understanding of the world in which we live'.
- The school is located in a large Victorian building in the centre of Stamford Hill, in the London Borough of Hackney.
- There are currently 119 pupils on roll, between the ages of 3 and 13. The early years provision has two classrooms located in the basement of the school.

School details

Unique reference number	137809
Inspection number	10020335
DfE registration number	204/6004

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Type of school	Orthodox Jewish primary
School status	Independent school
Age range of pupils	3–13
Gender of pupils	Boys
Number of pupils on the school roll	119
Proprietor	Viznitz Limited
Chair	Michael Rosenberg
Headteacher	Rabbi Pesach Akiva Taub
Date of previous school inspection	5 December 2012
Annual fees (day pupils)	£0 (voluntary donation)
Telephone number	0208 809 9513
Email address	admin@viznitzcheder.co.uk

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