

Paragon Christian Academy

Independent school progress report

DCSF registration number	204/6389
Unique Reference Number (URN)	100301
Inspection number	361058
Inspection date	20 May 2010
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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Purpose and scope of the visit

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002¹, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005².

The visit was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Paragon Christian Academy is a co-educational Christian day school for pupils aged from four to 18 years. It is located in Clapton, in the London Borough of Hackney. Pupils are taught in four different teaching groups, depending on their age. There are currently 45 pupils on roll from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. The school, which was founded in 1992, is a registered charity and the trustees are the World Vision for Christ. The school offers the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum, which is a highly structured and individualised programme of learning. Its stated main objective is to incorporate the teaching of the Bible into every aspect of pupils' education to enable them to grow spiritually, physically and academically. There is after-school child care provision for pupils until 6pm each day.

Context of the visit

When the school was last inspected in October 2009, it did not meet a number of regulations. The school submitted an action plan outlining its proposals for meeting these, and this was accepted in December 2009. This is the first monitoring visit to check the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the time of the last inspection, the welfare, health and safety of the pupils were judged inadequate. The designated person's training in safeguarding had not been updated in line with the latest Departmental guidance and the school had not carried out the required checks on portable electrical appliances. Through implementing its action plan, the school has successfully addressed the weaknesses identified. The designated persons responsible for child protection have now received the appropriate updates to their training and the required periodic checks on portable electrical equipment have been made.

¹ www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162

² www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8

When the school was last inspected, the implementation of the school's policies and procedures, particularly those relating to recruitment procedures and the checks made on staff and volunteers for their suitability to work prior to commencing employment with the school, was not sufficiently rigorous. Furthermore, the school did not properly record all the required information on a single central record. All the required checks have now been made for staff, volunteers and the trustees and these are recorded correctly on a single central record.

The limited outside space available on the school site where pupils can play has been identified as a shortcoming in the last two inspections. While it has not been possible to increase the amount of space, the school has rearranged its timetables so that smaller numbers of pupils access the outside space at breaktimes and lunchtimes. The school also makes regular use of a nearby park for physical education and recreational activities. It now meets all regulations related to the premises and accommodation

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

Name of school	Paragon Christian Academy		
DCSF number	204/6389		
Unique reference number (URN)	100301		
Type of school	Faith		
Status	Independent day		
Date school opened	7 September 1992		
Age range of pupils	4–18 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 25	Girls: 20	Total: 45
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,520–£2,760		
Address of school	233–241 Glyn Road London E5 0JP		
Telephone number	020 8985 1119		
Fax number	020 8985 1119		
Email address	pca@wvfc.co.uk		
Headteacher	Mrs Sharon Curry		
Proprietor	World Vision for Christ		
Reporting inspector	Michael Best		
Dates of inspection	20 May 2010		