

Priory School

Independent school progress report

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Unique Reference Number (URN)	118225
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Reporting inspector	Michèle Messaoudi

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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

Priory School is a small independent day school situated in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. In March 2009 the school was taken over by a new proprietor who is also the principal of the school. The school closed its Nursery in July 2009 and now provides education for girls and boys aged from 5 to 16 years. There are plans in hand to open a sixth form in September 2010 and so extend the age range to 18 years. There are currently 92 pupils on roll. There is one pupil with a statement of special educational needs. The aim of Priory School is *'to offer a first-class education at an affordable cost in a well-structured and clearly-run environment in order to become the school of choice for parents and pupils on the Isle of Wight'*. While the school's ethos is broadly Christian, pupils of all faiths are welcome.

Context of the visit

The school was last inspected in May 2009. Its action plan of 9 September 2009 and the timescales proposed to address those requirements not met were evaluated as satisfactory in January 2010. This is the first visit to monitor 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, although the quality of education was found to be satisfactory, there were shortcomings in the planning of the curriculum. Schemes of work were not consistently available, particularly in the junior school, and the implementation of the schemes of work was of inconsistent quality. Schemes of work are now in place for every subject in every key stage, based on National Curriculum documentation or examination board requirements. The schemes indicate how pupils' understanding and skills will be developed throughout the school. The monitoring of the implementation of the schemes of work is facilitated by the standardisation of the planning format in nearly every subject throughout the school.

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

In the sample of lessons seen, the planning of lessons was supported well by the schemes of work; teachers highlighted on the schemes of work which areas of the curriculum were covered as they progressed through the year, which provided an instant picture of curriculum coverage. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection found that there was no formal approach to the provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and that the provision relied solely on individual teachers' knowledge of the pupils. The school has now designated a member of staff to coordinate this area of school work and ensure that all staff receive the information required to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The school can demonstrate that where pupils have a statement of special educational needs, it provides an education that fulfils the requirements of the statement. This requirement is now met.

At the time of the last inspection, the planning of personal, social and health education (PSHE) was not systematic and so the school did not have a clear picture of what was covered. There is now a planned PSHE programme in place for all year groups that reflects the ethos of the school and meets requirements.

The last inspection found that secondary pupils did not receive effective careers advice; this deficiency had already been noted in the previous inspection. There is now a planned programme in place through which pupils receive both individual and generic careers guidance and benefit from the specialist advice of outside agencies. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection found that, in some cases, teachers were hindered by the lack of resources available to them and that this deficiency had an adverse impact on teaching and learning. There is now a system in place to review resources in every subject at regular intervals and funds are allocated to the upgrading of resources throughout the school. The school carried out a major restocking of its resources in the autumn term 2009. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection found that, while assessments were carried out in the senior school through the completion of end-of-unit tests or by testing pupils against GCSE requirements, regular assessments were not carried out by all teachers in the junior school. An assessment framework is now in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly, and pupils are formally assessed at least twice a term throughout the school. The school has systems to track the progress made by individual pupils and ensure that the information from assessments is utilised to plan the teaching to help pupils make sufficient progress. These requirements are now met.

At the time of the last inspection, provision for citizenship was at an early stage of development and so pupils did not have sufficient knowledge of public institutions and services in England. There is now a planned citizenship programme in place throughout the school, suitably enhanced by enrichment activities, which enables all pupils to develop an appropriate knowledge of local and national services and institutions. This requirement is now met.

The last inspection found that the provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety was inadequate because of serious weaknesses in safeguarding procedures, including those relating to the recruitment of staff. The school now ensures that all staff receive the appropriate level of training in child protection. Robust recruitment procedures are now in place to ensure that all the required checks, including enhanced checks by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), are carried out on all staff to confirm their suitability to work with children prior to the confirmation of their appointment. The school was also required to confirm that a CRB check had been carried out on the new proprietor and this has been done. The school also ensures that all the required checks on staff are recorded centrally in conformity with the latest guidance and that the central register is updated as necessary. The school did not comply with some requirements relating to the use of supply staff; these requirements are no longer applicable as the school no longer uses supply staff. The first-aid policy has been amended to reflect the latest guidance. All of the relevant requirements are now met.

At the time of the last inspection, three regulations were not met in respect of the premises and teaching accommodation. The school was required to ensure that all the classrooms used were of appropriate size to allow effective teaching and learning. This has been achieved by re-organising the use of classrooms with due regard to class sizes and limiting the maximum number of pupils to 16 per class. The last inspection also found that, although there were sufficient toilet facilities for pupils and staff, there were insufficient washbasins available for both boys and girls and that the water in their washrooms was too hot. As a result of the closure of the Early Years Foundation Stage provision, the installation of an additional washbasin in the girls' toilets and the designation of the toilets previously used by staff as pupils' toilets, there are now sufficient washbasins for the numbers of boys and girls on roll. The water temperature in pupils' washing facilities has been adjusted at an appropriate level. The last inspection found that although there was a suitably equipped room for pupils who are ill, it was located too far away from the pupils' toilet facilities. This has been rectified by designating washing facilities that are located near by and that were previously used by staff as pupils' toilets. The last inspection found that the floor covering in the mixed Nursery and Reception classroom was in poor condition. This room is no longer in use and its floor covering has been replaced. All these requirements are now met.

The last inspection found that the school did not meet two regulations relating to the provision of information to parents and others. Although parents were made aware of the availability, upon request, of the school's policies through the website and prospectus, they were not made aware that the policies available included those relating to child protection and health and safety. This has now been rectified and both policies are posted on the school website. The last inspection found that, where a pupil had a statement of special educational needs, the school had not provided the appropriate information to the local authority so that the required annual review could be carried out. The school can now demonstrate that it liaises appropriately with the local authority and others and provides all the required information for the

purpose of the annual review of the pupil's statement. These requirements are now met.

At the time of the last inspection, the school did not meet a number of statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. These are no longer relevant as the school has closed its provision for children under the age of five years.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

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

School details

Name of school	Priory School		
DCSF number	921/6041		
Unique reference number (URN)	118225		
Type of school	Co-educational day school		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1993		
Age range of pupils	5–16		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 50	Girls: 42	Total: 92
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 1	Girls: 0	Total: 1
Annual fees (day pupils)	£2,775–£4,800		
Address of school	Alverstone Manor 32 Luccombe Road Shanklin Isle of Wight PO37 6RR		
Telephone number	01983 861222		
Fax number	01983 861222		
Email address	mail@priorschool.org.uk		
Principal	Mr Edmund Matyjaszek		
Proprietor	Mr Edmund Matyjaszek		
Reporting inspector	Mrs Michèle Messaoudi		
Date of inspection	7 May 2010		