



## **SCHOOL INSPECTION SERVICE**

---

# Emergency unannounced inspection report

---

School name	Lancaster Steiner School
DfE registration number	888/6040
Inspection dates	17 September 2015
Reporting inspector	Peter Jones

## **Purpose and scope of the inspection**

This inspection was conducted by the School Inspection Service (SIS) at the request of the Department for Education (DfE). It was carried out by SIS in accordance with Section 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, and it follows the inspection framework agreed with the DfE. The inspection was conducted by an independent professional inspector, who looked at aspects of the school's provision as requested by the DfE.

## **Information about the inspection**

This inspection was conducted without prior notice.

## **Information about the school**

Lancaster Steiner School is an independent co-educational school affiliated to the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship. It began as a toddler group in 1991 and progressed in small stages to be first registered as an independent school in 2003. Situated in a residential street not far from the centre of Lancaster, it occupies buildings that have been converted from a former Methodist chapel. There are 29 pupils attending the school between the ages of three and eleven. Three children between the ages of three and six years attend the kindergarten classes full time, with 14 attending part-time. There are 12 pupils between the ages of six and eleven. The school is non-selective and has no pupils with statements of special educational need. One pupil is identified as having English as an additional language. The school aims to ensure the development of children who have a strong sense of purpose, morality and respect for themselves and others, who show initiative and creativity, and have the appropriate skills and motivation to achieve their potential in their future education and lives. The previous inspection of the school was in June 2014.

## **Summary of main findings**

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

The welfare, health and safety of pupils was found at the time of the previous inspection (June 2014) to be good overall, but there is now some non-compliance in the area of safeguarding.

The school has a suitable behaviour policy. Pupils say that there is no bullying in the school, and that if there is a disagreement between pupils, teachers encourage them to resolve it themselves, but will intervene if necessary. Pupils say that teachers are approachable and that they would turn to any of them if they had worries or

concerns. Behaviour is good, and pupils show respect and consideration for their teachers and each other.

The procedures for supervision of pupils are appropriate and meet requirements. There are suitable arrangements for the supervision of classes and for after-school provision.

The school's safeguarding policy (in hard copy and on the school website) has not been updated to include references to the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015). The policy makes no references to the changes required by that document. The safeguarding policy makes no reference to the recently introduced Prevent duty which is placed on all independent schools by the government. There is a lack of clarity about whose responsibility it is to ensure that the safeguarding policy is reviewed and updated.

Designated staff with responsibility for child protection have received training, with more planned, but neither they nor trustees are sufficiently familiar with current safeguarding documents and requirements.

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

As at the time of the previous inspection, all the necessary checks are made and the single central register is in order. The school has good systems for checking suitability and has ensured that all the necessary information is gathered and recorded.

#### **Part 6. Provision of information**

The school has a website on which parents can access key policies. However, given that the safeguarding policy is not compliant, and therefore inaccurate, the school does not meet in full the requirements of Part 6.

#### **Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled**

The school complaints policy meets the requirements. The school follows appropriate procedures in the event of a formal complaint.

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

The need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of trustees, administrators and teaching staff was identified in the previous inspection report in the Next Steps section of the main report and in Section C, written by the Steiner lay inspector. Some progress has been made, with changes to trustees and staff, but there are still weaknesses. Gaps in the school's leadership and management arrangements mean that there is a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities. The school does not have a conventional senior management team, relying instead on shared responsibilities within the educational community for leadership and management.

The impact of this arrangement is that no single person is responsible for ensuring that the school is aware of changes in regulatory requirements and that they can be missed. Limited knowledge of changes in independent school standards and in safeguarding documentation, including the Prevent strategy, indicates a need to further develop awareness of the statutory responsibilities of those who lead and manage. Current arrangements in the area of leadership and management require improvement.

### Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ('the independent school standards') and associated requirements as follows:

- In order to meet the requirements of Part 3 Welfare, Health and Safety of Pupil in full, the school should:

Ensure that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils at the school;	7 (a)
Such arrangements should have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.	7 (b)

- In order to meet the requirements of Part 6 Provision of Information in full, the school should ensure that:

Particulars of the arrangement for meeting the standard contained in paragraph 7 (safeguarding and child protection policy) are published on the school's internet website.	32 1) (c)
---	-----------

- In order to meet the requirements Part 8 Quality of Leadership in and Management of Schools in full, the school should:

Ensure that persons with leadership and management responsibilities demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;	34 (1) (a)
Fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently;	34 (1) (b)
Actively promote the well-being of pupils.	34 (1) (c)

## SCHOOL DETAILS

Name of school:	Lancaster Steiner School			
Address of school:	Lune Road Lancaster LA1 5QU			
Telephone number:	01524 841351			
Email address:	lancastersteinerschool@yahoo.co.uk			
Web address	www.lancastersteinerschool.org			
Chair of the Trustees	Mr Andrew Taylor			
Person registered with DfE as proprietor under paragraph 20 of Part 4:	Mr Andrew Taylor			
DfE Number	888/6040			
Type of school	Independent school			
Age range of pupils	3 to 11			
Gender of pupils	Male and female			
Total number on roll	full-time	14	part-time	15
	Boys:	17 (11 FT)	Girls:	12 (3 FT)
Number of pupils with statements of special educational need	Boys:	0	Girls:	0
Number of pupils with English as an additional language	Boys:	1	Girls:	0
Type of inspection	Emergency unannounced inspection under Section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008			
Date of inspection	17 September 2015			
Inspector	Peter Jones			