

Darul Uloom Dawatul Imaan

Harry Street, Off Wakefield Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD4 9PH

Inspection date

17/09/2019

Context of the inspection

The boarding provision was judged to be inadequate at a full inspection on 12 February 2019. There were serious safeguarding failings, health and safety concerns and poor leadership and management. The school closed voluntarily to address the health and safety concerns. During the closure, significant improvement was made to the washing and toilet facilities. At a progress monitoring inspection on 25 April 2019, most of the required areas of improvement identified in February had been actioned.

There remained weaknesses in the leadership and management of the boarding provision and in the supervision of boarding staff, national minimum standards 13 and 15 respectively.

The focus of this inspection was: the school's action plan, put in place to meet these two national minimum standards, further scrutiny of the school's safeguarding arrangements and the well-being of the pupils.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The trustees have commissioned an education and safeguarding consultant to assist their improvement plans. The consultant has provided the trustees with management training and staff at all levels with safeguarding training.

There is a new system in place to assess and review the practice of boarding staff. Written reviews that have taken place since the last inspection are more informative, yet they do not clearly link staff practice needs to specific development opportunities or training courses. There are no set timescales for staff to achieve development goals and no clarity as to how this achievement will be measured. At this point, it is not clear how this is improving the standards of care in the boarding provision. The system is in its infancy and the trustees have planned for the consultant to come back and support them to review this.

There is a new training programme in place for staff aimed at promoting the needs of the pupils. Available training includes: boarding practice, promoting emotional well-being and a range of safeguarding areas such as neglect, online safety and exploitation.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) continues to attend local DSL network meetings and has attended training about county lines, radicalisation and emotional well-being. He has cascaded this learning to boarding staff. The deputy DSL also attended the county lines training. The deputy DSL demonstrated an improved awareness of his safeguarding responsibilities compared to the last monitoring inspection. He does not attend the local DSL network meetings. This is a missed opportunity to develop further his knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. The deputy DSL by being on duty more at weekends has increased his vigilance in overseeing the well-being of the pupils in their free time.

Although the trustees are monitoring an action plan to comply with the requirements from the last inspection, wider strategic planning is still weak. There was no updated self-assessment of the boarding provision. The compliance reports in relation to national minimum standards referred to in the school's action plan only cover health and safety aspects of the accommodation, other compliance reports were described as 'work in progress'.

The minutes of senior leadership team (SLT) meetings are more detailed about what the SLT are trying to achieve. There was no available written evidence of challenge by the trustees and SLT meeting minutes do not include proposed actions and timescales to demonstrate accountability.

The school's action plan is being implemented, but the rate of progress is slow. The previous head has resigned, and it was unclear how this post will be filled on a permanent basis. The school has not notified the Department for Education of this change.

The pupils report feeling happy and safe and like being at the school. There are people to talk to if they are worried about anything and they know how to contact the school's independent listeners. They are able to personalise their bed spaces and to create a feature wall in their dormitories. Very few pupils have chosen to do so. The common room that was re-opened at the last inspection now has four table tennis tables for the pupils' enjoyment. The trustees have quotes for new sofas and chairs for both common rooms. These rooms currently lack any homely touches. The corridor walls on the top floor were noted to be dirty and toilets had litter and toilet paper strewn about them. The school cleaner has recently resigned and the impact of this was noticeable.

National minimum standards

The school must meet the following national minimum standards for boarding schools:

- 13.3 The school's leadership and management demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role.

What the school needs to do to improve:

The SLT needs to prepare an accurate self-assessment of the boarding provision based on all the national minimum standards and social care common inspection framework. Share this self-assessment with the trustees and implement a development plan for the

boarding provision with clear timescales and realistic goals. The trustees must evidence how they hold the SLT to account in achieving these goals.

Reviews of staff practice need to clearly identify staff development needs, how these will be met, by when and how this will be measured.

The deputy DSL should attend the local DSL network meetings to improve his safeguarding knowledge.

Review and improve the cleaning arrangements of the boarding accommodation so that pupils benefit from living in a clean and tidy environment.

Be more proactive in supporting boarders to personalise their bed spaces and dormitories.

Improve the homeliness of the common rooms with appropriate furniture, decor and pictures.

Inspection team

Simon Morley

Lead social care inspector

Matthew Reed

HMI Social care inspector

Information about this school

Darul Uloom Dawatul Imaan is an independent Muslim boys' boarding school for pupils aged 11 to 25 in Bradford. The school currently offers boarding education to 167 students, some of whom are continuing in their Islamic studies. The school aims to provide an education in a secure and holistic Islamic environment. The boarding provision was last inspected in April 2019.

School details

Unique reference number	134140
Social care unique reference number	SC050866
DfE registration number	380 6114

This inspection was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.

Type of school	Boarding school
Number of boarders on roll	167
Gender of boarders	Boys
Age range of boarders	11 to 25
Headteacher	Mr Abdurrahman Kayat
Date of previous boarding inspection	25/04/2019
Telephone number	01274 402233
Email address	info@dawatulimaan.org

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