

Darul Uloom Dawatul Imaan

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

Inspection date

11/11/2020

Context of the inspection

At the last inspection, in September 2019 (which was also a progress monitoring inspection), there were deficiencies in the leadership and management of the boarding provision. National minimum standard (NMS) 13 was not met.

Subsequently, the school submitted an action plan to the Department for Education. The action plan was weak and did not demonstrate how the senior leadership team and the trustees were going to critically evaluate the quality of the school's boarding provision. This has been an ongoing issue for at least 18 months, with little sign of progress.

The focus of this monitoring inspection was to explore how well the school's action plan had been implemented and whether NMS 13 had been met, and to further explore the school's safeguarding arrangements alongside the well-being of pupils.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

There has been a reorganisation and consolidation of the senior leadership team. The headteacher's temporary post is now permanent, and a new head of boarding has been appointed from within the school.

The trustees have started making regular visits to the school to check on improvements and hold the school leaders to account. The quality of record-keeping of the senior leadership team meetings and the team's meetings with the trustees has vastly improved. The arrangements in place demonstrate better communication and accountability.

The improved management oversight is supported by a realistic self-assessment of the boarding provision and an accompanying development plan. It is evident that the school's leaders and managers are using appropriate skills to fulfil their roles. This is having a positive impact on the welfare of the boarders.

The living accommodation is clean and tidy and new cleaners have been employed, helping maintain good standards of cleanliness and hygiene. The staff regularly remind the boarders of the appropriate steps to take to reduce any transmission of COVID-19 (coronavirus). There are plenty of posters around the school to reinforce this message.

Boarders are separated into boarding 'bubbles' to reduce risks of transmission. The boarders spoken to during the inspection felt safe and understood the reasons for the changes.

The common rooms have been decorated and equipped with new furniture, board games and pool and table-tennis tables. The boarders commented on how much nicer these rooms are now and that they enjoy using them. The boarders are also pleased that they can make telephone calls to their families in privacy.

The boarders are encouraged to personalise their bed spaces and dormitories. Some of the boarders have started to do this, giving their living accommodation some personal identity.

The school was closed from March to September 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. During this time, the school leaders took appropriate steps to provide continuity of the boarders' education with remote learning opportunities. School staff kept in regular contact with boarders and their families, helping to ensure that they were receiving necessary emotional support during this difficult time. The school leaders took appropriate precautions in their preparations to reopen the school in September 2020.

The staff are promoting positive mental health for the boarders. This is a new whole-school initiative and needs to be embedded in practice before it can be assessed for any impact.

All the staff undertake a wide range of safeguarding training. The school leaders have encouraged this. The staff understand the risks to the boarders' welfare and know what to do if they have any concerns about boarders being abused or exploited. Topics such as e-safety are regularly taught to the boarders and reinforced by boarding staff. The boarders think that the school rules are fair and that their behaviour is good. They report that there is no bullying. However, there has been one disclosure of bullying and related self-harm. School leaders took appropriate action to protect the welfare of those involved and address the inappropriate bullying.

Senior staff are using a new system to review staff practice. This is helping to ensure that staff benefit from training and development opportunities. The staff appreciate this, especially when they hear positive feedback about their achievements.

Additional boarding staff have been recruited, giving the boarders extra support levels. The boarders report that there are always staff to talk to if they are worried about anything, and that the staff give them plenty of time.

National minimum standards

The school must meet the following NMS for boarding schools:

Not applicable. Within the remit of this inspection, no unmet NMS were identified.

What the school needs to do to improve:

- Ensure that the system of staff appraisals is maintained and that regular reviews of staff practice take place.
- Review and update the development plan for the boarding provision.
- Embed the whole-school practice of monitoring the boarders' well-being. Review and assess the impact of this practice.

Inspection team

Simon Morley

Lead social care inspector

Information about this school

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

School details

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

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	17/09/2019
Telephone number	01274 402233
Email address	info@dawatulimaan.org

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