

Follow-Through Inspection Report on Mirdif Private School

Report issued June 2009

Basic information

Mirdif Private School was inspected in January 2009 as part of the initial quality inspection cycle across all schools in Dubai. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. It evaluated students' achievements, the effectiveness of the school, the environment for learning and the school's processes for self-evaluation and capacity for improvement. During this inspection, school inspectors identified a number of recommendations which the school was required to address.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) conducted a Follow-Through Inspection during May 2009. The purpose of this Follow-Through inspection was to evaluate the progress made by the school in achieving improvements based on the recommendations set out in the first inspection report.

Progress

Inspectors judged that Mirdif Private School had not yet satisfactorily addressed the recommendations made by DSIB at the Initial Quality Inspection. Inspectors will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections at three monthly intervals until the recommendations made by inspectors have been satisfactorily addressed.

Initial Quality Inspection Recommendations

- Improve the quality of teaching and learning and develop effective strategies to manage teaching performance;
- Ensure that the curriculum provision meets the needs of the students in the school;
- Address the health and safety hazards by:
 - Ensuring that both school gates are secure;
 - Attending to the inadequate safety netting;
 - Clarify procedures and carrying out an emergency evacuation practice;
 - Ensuring that seatbelts are in place on buses and worn by students.
- As the villa accommodation provided an unsatisfactory learning environment, the school should improve the quality of the accommodation to an acceptable standard;
- Review and correct misleading inaccuracies in the school website;

- Ensure that the teaching and support staff are sufficiently qualified to teach the curriculum;
- Provide sufficient resources for student learning.

Overview of progress achieved

Improve the quality of teaching and learning and develop effective strategies to manage teaching performance.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The school had made a promising start towards addressing the weaknesses in teaching and learning. The useful action plan outlined actions taken, target dates and person responsible. Four teachers had been replaced around the time of the inspection and the Principal set about improving the performance of the remainder through rigorous monitoring, supported by intensive professional development and training. There was a culture of sharing best practice and peer observation. The learning observed during the Follow-Through Inspection was active and lively, with students working collaboratively and in some cases explaining to others, either in class or individually, how to solve the problem in hand. In the best lessons seen the restrictions placed upon teachers by the inadequacies of the premises were in most cases skilfully overcome. Students were absorbed in their work and participated enthusiastically in the tasks assigned. Teachers had benefited from training in the use of the electronic white board but were still experimenting with how to best use this new technology.

Ensure that the curriculum provision meets the needs of the students in the school.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The curriculum has been amended to ensure that Islamic Studies and Arabic were taught in compliance with the Ministry of Education requirements. Students spoke with great enthusiasm about their lessons in physical education and music. They particularly liked the way they were learning in English and noticed how teachers were involving them more actively in lessons. The next Follow-Through Inspection will focus on the implementation and impact of these measures to improve the curriculum.

Address the health and safety hazards by:

- **Ensuring that both school gates are secure;**
- **Attending to the inadequate safety netting;**
- **Clarify procedures and carrying out an emergency evacuation practice;**
- **Ensuring that seatbelts are in place on buses and worn by students.**

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Inspectors observed that the school gates were kept locked and were unlocked to admit visitors and again relocked after their departure. The safety features that were deficient during the time of the inspection arose out of building work on the adjacent site, which was completed. The school did not provide documentary evidence that emergency evacuation procedures were in place but had begun the process of compiling procedures for its move to new premises. The school gave assurance that seat belts were in place on all school transport. The next Follow-Through Inspection will carry out a thorough check of all health and safety systems and features.

As the villa accommodation provided an unsatisfactory learning environment, the school should improve the quality of the accommodation to an acceptable standard.

The school was busy preparing for its move to new premises. The school anticipates that it will take possession of the new building in June. The next Follow-Through Inspection will assess the quality of the learning environment and its impact on the students' learning, progress and personal development.

Review and correct misleading inaccuracies in the school website.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

A new website was under construction and would be developed to include accurate information regarding the work of the school.

Ensure that the teaching and support staff are sufficiently qualified to teach the curriculum

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Teachers will arrive in August for six weeks of training and induction before students arrive to begin the new school year. The increase in staffing levels to meet the needs of

the growing student population were well in hand. The school had actively sought teachers with higher levels of qualifications, in line with the recommendation, and had a policy of employing first language English teachers for the subjects taught in English. As well as more teachers the school had appointed two co-ordinators who will take up their new posts in August. The next Follow-Through Inspection will assess the quality of this provision and the impact of students' learning, progress and personal development.

Provide sufficient resources for student learning.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The school had purchased an electronic white board and this was being used effectively. Further resources had been ordered for the start of the next academic year in the new building. The next Follow-Through Inspection will assess the quality of this provision and the impact of students' learning and progress and personal development.

What happens next?

DSIB will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections of Mirdif Private School until the school has progressed to the stage where they are included in the usual inspection cycle for all Dubai schools. DSIB will continue to report to parents regarding the progress made by the school until this occurs.

How to contact us

If you have a concern or wish to comment on any aspect of this report you should contact: inspection@khda.gov.ae.

More information about Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau can be found at www.khda.gov.ae.