

Second
Follow-Through Inspection Report
on
Mirdif Private School

Report published May 2010

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 and a further Follow-Through Inspection during November 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 made acceptable progress towards addressing the recommendations from the Initial Quality Inspection and, as a result, will not require further Follow-Through inspections. The school will now enter the cycle of regular inspections during 2009 - 2010.

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.

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 significant steps in addressing the weaknesses in teaching and learning. The useful action plan outlined actions taken, target dates and person responsible. Eleven new members of the teaching staff had been appointed and the quality of teaching of the remainder was being raised through intensive professional development and training. There was now a culture of sharing best practice and peer observation. The quality of learning continued to improve; students in lessons were observed as being engaged and enjoying their work. Teachers continued to benefit from training in the use of the data projectors, interactive whiteboards, and other new learning technologies.

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. The impact of this successful amendment was that standards were at least acceptable in these subjects and the school was developing into an ambitious bilingual setting. Students now enjoyed lessons in physical education and music. The new school buildings meant that these subjects could be delivered within specialist facilities. Students were actively engaged in their lessons.

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.

Many of the specific recommendations were now no longer relevant in the new school premises. The new buildings provided an environment which was spacious, secure and stimulating. Appropriate safety measures had been taken on the school buses in line with the RTA regulations.

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

The school had successfully moved to new premises and the school community was enjoying a new lease of life in the spacious and attractive new buildings.

Review and correct misleading inaccuracies in the school website.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

The website reflected the reality of life at Mirdif Private School in its new premises and the new opportunities open to the students.

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

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Eleven new teachers had been appointed and were now in post guiding, challenging and stimulating the students appropriately. An appropriate strategy had been adopted in staff appointments and the new colleagues had a range of different experiences. Some were newly qualified teachers, or those who were quite early in their careers, and others were teachers who had considerable experience. This weight of experience coupled with the fresh enthusiasm of the newer teachers provided a good foundation for successful growth and development.

Provide sufficient resources for student learning.

The school had made satisfactory progress towards addressing this recommendation.

Classrooms were equipped with appropriate equipment in the form of data projectors, interactive whiteboards and teacher computers; a specialist computer suite was available for students and the new library was well-stocked with suitable books. At the time of the Follow-Through Inspection the school had yet to be connected to the internet, and this limited learning and research opportunities.

What happens next?

As a result of the progress made by Mirdif Private School towards meeting the recommendations from the Initial Quality Inspection, DSIB will undertake no further Follow-Through Inspections and the school will now enter the cycle of regular school inspections during the current cycle.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau
Knowledge and Human Development Authority

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.

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