

**Section 48 Inspection Report
Statutory Inspection of Muslim Schools Report
IQRA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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127 Parkhill Road,
SW4 9PA
Local authority: Lambeth
Dates of inspection: 28/09/2010
Date of last inspection: N/A
Headteacher: Richard Thornhill
Inspector's name: Mohammad Ismail

School context

Iqra Primary is a good Muslim school with 148 Muslim pupils on roll. The school serves the Muslim community of Brixton and surrounding areas of London. Pupils in the school come from multicultural backgrounds and for most of them English is an additional language. Iqra was previously registered as an independent Muslim school with an Islamic ethos. The school joined the Voluntary Aided (VA) sector in 2008. The school has been recently moved to its present accommodation. Iqra has a strong cohesive community of multi-faith staff where everyone celebrates the school's Islamic ethos.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Iqra Primary as a Muslim school is good

The head teacher and his deputy offer help and support to the head of Islamic Studies who leads the provision with a clear direction. The school enjoys support from the governing body in Islamic Studies provision. The school maintains its relationship with a local mosque and receives regular guidance. All adults in the school community are excellent role models for pupils. The school has recently adapted a commercially acquired Islamic studies programme. The teachers plan their schemes of work effectively with the department's own assessment system which is satisfactory. The school provides a safe Islamic learning environment. All pupils during lessons and around the school were well behaved. They demonstrated respect with Islamic manners and greeted the inspectors and each other appropriately with the Islamic greeting. During meetings with the inspectors, pupils expressed their love for their school and faith. The school is aiming to enhance Islamic studies provision through its future plan by building a prayer hall (*masjid*) and a proper *wudoo* (pre-prayer washing facilities) area.

Established strengths

- Good behaviour
- Good reflection of collective worship (*zuhur salah*)
- Good leadership and management
- Multicultural and multi-faith staff
- Good Islamic art provision
- Effective self evaluation system

Focus for development

- Implement the present plan to build the *masjid* and *wudoo* area
- Establish links between Religious Education (RE) and Islamic Studies provision
- Plan visits to places of worship of other religions and communities
- Keep Improving standards in Islamic Studies
- Strengthen the regular contacts with the local imam and mosque

The school, through its distinctive Islamic character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The school has a good resources bank for Islamic studies. Each classroom has an Islamic

Studies corner. Plans are in place to build a prayer hall *masjid* with proper *wudoo* area. the school's leadership and governing body are working as a team to maintain the school's Islamic ethos. They are effectively monitoring the strengths and weaknesses of the school. All staff present themselves as good role model which is well reflected in the pupils' behaviour. The head of Islamic Studies and other Muslim teachers are excellent practicing role models. The school's corridors, hall and classrooms are appropriately decorated with pupils' Islamic work and with other learning material. All this makes the school a safe, welcoming Islamic learning environment for all its pupils. The school through its Islamic studies programme has managed to develop an Islamic environment which effectively helps all pupils to be good Muslims and good citizens. Pupils learn about other faith and cultures as well which helps them to respect others. Pupils who need extra help are provided for. The school sets a good example of community cohesion for other schools. The School's effectiveness in the collective act of worship *Salah*, collective assembly and RE programme has made pupils to be respectful, articulate and enjoy their learning. The school is in the federation of local schools and has managed to establish good links with the local and the wider community. However, the school is still to plan visits to places of other cultures. The school enjoys support from parents and some would like to see an increase in the Islamic Studies.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The school's collective worship sessions are held at *Zuhur* time (after midday). Pupils have sufficient time to perform their *wudoo*. They sit orderly in rows and a pupil gives *adhaan* (call to prayer) correctly which is followed by *iqamaah* (pre congressional call), then *Jumaah* (congressional prayer) is led by a pupil appropriately. After the prayer, the supplications of peace are offered collectively. Pupils demonstrate the required skills and enjoy the session. The head of Islamic Studies is present to guide pupils. Pupils express their love for the prayer. The school with the help of some parents is looking into organising Friday prayers in the school to help pupils in their spiritual development.

The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory but improving with some good aspects

This is due to the joint efforts by the leadership to promote Islamic values in the school. The school offers a good quality curriculum which includes Qur'an with the rules of *tajweed* (rules of reciting the holy Qur'an), a selection from the traditions (sayings and actions) of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), Islamic history, manners and *nasheed* (Islamic songs). In RE and other parts of the curriculum pupils learn about other faiths. All teachers in the Islamic studies section are caring and excellent practicing role models. They enjoy a good relationship with their pupils. The school's Teaching Assistants are always there to help. In most lessons a variety of activities and different teaching methods were used to help pupils enjoy, learn and make progress. Pupils were observed learning about the Holy Qur'an and its important status for a Muslim. The school assessment in Islamic Studies is still under development and it is satisfactory. There is a progress monitoring system in place. All lessons observed were either satisfactory or good. The school is working hard to enhance its provision for Islamic Studies. Pupils' work shows that they are making satisfactory achievements with good aspects and improvement. Pupils greet each other and are well aware of Islamic manners. They have memorised parts of the Holy Qur'an and the necessary supplications from the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). They learn how to perform prayers from their early years. They help each other and help teachers in the class. They are assertive and polite. The school provides regular in-house training for its staff and reviews its resources.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as an Islamic school is good

Iqra Primary is a good Islamic school. This is due to the team work of leadership and management who offers the school a clear steer and direction to be a good Muslim school. The leadership team is working hard to raise the standards in the school. An effective self-evaluation system is in place. The leadership is actively improving its liaison with parents to

involve them in key areas of school life. Communication with the parents is good and takes place through regular letters and meetings. Almost all parents are very supportive of the school. There are effective plans to deal with the school's weaknesses. Appropriate resources are allocated to meet the identified targets. Staff are aware of the purpose of Islamic Studies. The staff have access to guidance, support and relevant training from the school's governing body.

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