

Name and address of the school: Dallington School,
Castillo de Aysa, 8 28043 Madrid

School's regional authorisation number: 28076678

Date of Inspection:
3rd December 2019

Type of Inspection:
Buildings inspection and authorisation for Years 7 and 8.

Inspector:
Jocelyn Shimell

Reason for the Inspection: To evaluate the suitability of a new building designed to accommodate pupils from Year 1 to Year 8 and to give authorisation up to Year 8.

Overall Recommendation: It is recommended that the school's new building on Calle Castillo de Aysa 8 Madrid be given authorisation for a capacity of 360 pupils from Year 1 (five years old) to Year 8 (13 years old).

The next full inspection is due in 2022.

This building inspection does not imply a postponement of the educational inspection.

*Schools are **authorised** by regional authorities after **inspection** by NABSS (or another recognised inspection service) and **certification** by the British Council.*

Schools should not refer to themselves as being authorised by the British Council, NABSS nor any other inspection service. Schools must not use the logos of any of these organisations in their publicity.

NABSS member schools may use the NABSS logo.

N.B. A NABSS inspection does not infer membership of the Association. Authorised schools may apply for NABSS membership.

History and Context of the School:

The school opened in 2015 and is family owned. The current site is situated in a quiet, residential area in Madrid and there are 173 pupils on roll. The school will move to a new site in January 2020 and will offer education to pupils in Year 7 from September 2020.

Accommodation and Resources:

The new school site is a renovated mansion house. The building comprises four floors and a spacious outdoor area that includes a good sized football pitch, padel courts and an area of artificial grass that can be used for outdoor learning, recreation and educational activities. The building is designed in a way that offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and allows plenty of natural light to enter all areas.

The main entrance has secure doors and an entry system will be installed before the building opens. A wide central staircase and a lift ensure the safe movement of pupils and staff between floors.

On the ground floor, two spacious changing rooms are accessed from the outdoor garden area. These are equipped with toilets and showers. This level houses the large kitchen and dining area. Meals will be delivered by the catering company currently supplying the school. This area will also serve as an assembly hall for whole school events. Additional space is available to create a music and drama room.

A good-sized laboratory is also located on this floor. Fixtures are in place for the installation of sinks and other suitable equipment needed for the delivery of the science curriculum. An interior patio next to the laboratory can be used for outdoor learning projects. There is a large, lockable cupboard providing safe storage of chemicals and a preparation area.

Five Key Stage 1 classrooms are located on the first floor; they are spacious and have plenty of natural light, as well as access to an outdoor learning area. Two classrooms have a dividing door between them which offers the opportunity to organise activities for both Year 2 classes at the same time. A library is also located on this level. In addition, five smaller rooms will be used by the speech therapists and educational psychologists to offer extra support for pupils.

On the second floor, there is an additional library space which will also house the computers for the teaching of information and communications technology (ICT). The Year 7 classroom will also be located on this level, as well as seven primary classrooms. All classrooms are spacious and have access to wide balconies that can be used for outdoor learning activities. To ensure pupils' safety, the existing balcony railings will have to be raised from their current height and bars must also be installed on all windows.

The reception area, staff room and administration offices are also on this floor. There is space to create eight more classrooms on this level and there are ample storage facilities for equipment, resources and teachers' personal belongings.

On the third floor, a well-sized room has been created for the delivery of religious education and personal, social and health education. A glass divider enables both subjects to be taught at the same time. There is a large space on this floor to create more classrooms in the future as the school grows.

In conclusion, the building provides excellent accommodation for primary and secondary pupils and is appropriate for the delivery of the English National Curriculum.

Health and Safety:

The building is surrounded by a perimeter fence and complies with local requirements for fire regulations and emergency evacuation.

There are ample toilets throughout for pupils and staff.

Once the railings are installed, the site will be a safe environment for pupils and staff.

Preparation for the addition of Year 7 pupils:

The directors of the school share a passion for education and a strong sense of responsibility towards the pupils. They have created a safe, family environment at the current site and are dedicated to maintaining this as they expand in the future. Both prioritise the needs of pupils above all else and have an experienced Head of Key Stage 3 (KS3) to advise them as to the requirements of the secondary English National Curriculum.

Three qualified teachers currently employed by the school will deliver the humanities, science and English curricula to Year 7 ensuring a smooth transition for pupils from primary to secondary education. The science teacher, who is also Head of British Studies, is qualified to teach at secondary level. He is familiar with curriculum requirements and has ensured that policies are in place ready for the opening of the new building and expansion into KS3.

The Year 6 teacher, who will deliver the humanities curriculum, taught an outstanding lesson; pupils were engaged throughout, timing of tasks was impeccable, success criteria were clear and there was a clear path of learning as the teacher recapped previous lesson content and outlined the aims of the lesson.

Year 6 pupils are exceptionally well behaved, polite and happy at the school. They are looking forward to moving to the new site and starting their secondary education next year.

The Year 6 teacher and the Head of British Studies form a strong team and meet to develop the secondary curriculum on a regular basis. Both share the same goals to provide a smooth transition for pupils from Year 6 to 7, create a safe environment at the new site and cover all national curriculum requirements.

A physical education teacher has been employed from January and the school aims to appoint a mathematics and ICT teacher in January to allow time for curriculum planning and purchase of relevant resources.

Existing tracking and assessment systems are to be adapted for Year 7 next year. Behaviour and safeguarding policies are already in place for the secondary school.

The timetable, an eight period model, is already in place. There is a suitable allocation of time for the delivery of the English National Curriculum as well as offering a broad co-curricular range of other areas of study such as communication and thinking skills, global studies and French.

The leadership team's thorough preparation and planning for the move to the new site enable the school to offer a suitable secondary education to KS3 pupils.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the new building be given authorization for a capacity of 360 pupils and for the teaching of pupils up to Year 8 for two years.