

INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR BEIS SOROH SCHENIERER SEMINARY

UKVI LICENCE No:88CFBXTG0

Education oversight inspection of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

The overall inspection findings for this college

UKVI Standards for

courses and qualifications are	MET
teaching, learning and assessment are	MET
the cultural and moral development of students are	MET
welfare, health and safety are	MET
the effectiveness and suitability of staff are	MET
financial sustainability, leadership and governance are	MET
premises and accommodation are	MET
information and complaints are	MET

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

Introduction

Purpose and scope of the inspection

Mainland Education Ltd is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection is designed to assess the college's compliance with the Standards for colleges agreed with the Home Office. These Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where

applicable, those who are under eighteen or are vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, and the wider community.

Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success. It helps colleges, their staff and trustees, governors, and/or proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance. The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance since the last inspection and makes an assessment of the college's financial sustainability going forward, on the basis of information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Colleges are subject to a full inspection once every four years which is conducted by two inspectors over two days. In the intervening years, colleges receive an annual interim inspection and are kept under review. Interim inspections build on the findings from the last full inspection and state whether or not the college continues to meet the agreed Standards.

The last full inspection of Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in June 2023 when the college met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges.

Characteristics of the college

Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary (BSSSEM) is a well-established private Jewish college of further education for orthodox young women age 16-19, located in Manchester. The seminary aims to fully prepare girls for their future, spiritually, culturally and practically. There are currently 198 girls on roll of whom 55 are visa students, with 27 of those being under 18 years. There are more UK non-visa students this year than last, but there is still a significant number of students who come from Europe, and from France in particular, with others from further afield including Australia and USA. Almost all the girls board on site.

Main Findings of Interim Inspection

Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary continues to meet all the UKVI Educational Oversight Standards. A number of improvements has been made since the 2023 full inspection.

All students take a two-year religious programme of advanced limudie kodesh (Jewish studies), delivered each morning, covering the key concepts of the Torah and their religious and moral value in life. Continuity of course provision is ensured year-on-year by a well established team of experienced and knowledgeable rabbis led by the Principal. The students are eager to learn and are ambitious, with some going on to become, for example, doctors or architects. Teaching and learning are suitably challenging and students know about their progress through regular marked tests, assignments and individual feedback, including one-to-one review meetings with the Principal. All visa students take a Level 3 qualification in Jewish studies that is accredited by Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE) and equips them to teach Jewish studies.

Secular vocational courses, taken mainly by non-visa students, continue to be taught on-site through a very successful partnership with Salford City College, and lead to accredited

qualifications at Advanced Level or in vocational subjects. Standards remain high and the range of subjects is good and expanding: this year has seen the addition of creative crafts as an accredited qualification. Visa students have access to a wide range of additional courses some of which are vocational, and include amongst others a personal gym trainer course, website design, hairdressing, voice training, First Aid, relationship coaching and home organisation. Some visa students are also engaged in on-line degree courses in, for example, cybersecurity. Courses reflect the seminary's awareness of an increased job focus on the part of students and their families. Completion and qualification in the courses continues to be suitably high. The college ensures that all the students follow a full-time course of study.

The cultural and moral development of students is well established and continues to be a strength. The seminary aims to help girls to be happy and fulfilled, and to appreciate life. The girls say they enjoy being at the seminary and value the range of activities, the family atmosphere and the good support they receive. The re-establishment, post-Covid, of trips away including to Europe, is welcomed by staff and students as a way of extending and broadening friendships and developing camaraderie.

There are good pastoral care arrangements that have been enhanced since the last inspection. A member of staff is now on duty overnight in the dormitories, takes a nightly register, checks and monitors the rooms and keeps a log of any concerns. This is shared with the day-time Aim Habayes (matrons), who are both trained in safeguarding, one to Level 3 DSL, the other, in a temporary position to cover a maternity leave, to Level 1. They know their students as individuals, monitor their well-being, keep good records of any pastoral issues and meet with the Principal weekly to discuss pastoral care of students. The girls say that if they encounter personal problems they can talk readily to the Aim Habayes. They also feel comfortable speaking to the night-time supervisor, the Principal or other staff. The girls say they are happy with their residential accommodation, which is clean and well cared for, and say that their food is healthy and plentiful, with any allergies recognised and catered for.

Outdoor areas have been cleared and continue to be tidy and well looked after. Work on upgrading the premises continues. Site security has been improved and CCTV cameras installed and monitored. An improved system of signing in and out at the main entrance means that the college has a record of girls who may go off-site during daytime hours. Girls are made aware of the need for personal safety when they leave the premises. Since the last inspection a full-time caretaker has taken up his role; he looks after the site and monitors the premises daily for fire, health and safety and maintenance.

Compliant safeguarding policies and procedures have been established and continue to be in place. All staff have undertaken safeguarding training and three members of staff are trained as Level 3 trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) including the Principal. The required checks are made on new staff, and all staff now have enhanced DBS checks. The details are recorded on a Single Central Register (SCR) that is up to date and complete.

The seminary's management committee have introduced new management policies and systems. They have employed a business manager who has been able to make very significant reductions in running costs across the board. This more efficient management, together with a successful drive to promote the seminary and an increase in fees, has resulted in an improved financial position. This gives assurance that the seminary can continue to operate and provide education for its students. A suitable complaints policy is known to the students and complaint forms are available outside the office. A prospectus is

circulated and students are invited to visit the seminary before application. Good contact with parents is maintained through the Aim Habayes and the teaching staff.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim check in 2025.

Actions Required

- No action is required

COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary
Address of college:	474 Bury New Road, Salford M7 4NU
Telephone number:	0161 792 7770
Email address:	admin@bsssem.co.uk
Proprietor:	Beis Soroh Schenierer Charitable Trust
Name of Principal:	Rabbi Y. Marmorstein
Licence number:	88CFBXTG0
Type of college:	Private Jewish Seminary of Further Education

Details of student body

Age range	16-19 years
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Number of students on roll:		Tier 4	UK
	Full Time:	55	143
	Over 18	28	12
	Below 18	27	131

Annual fees:	£11,100
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Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mr. Peter R. Jones
Date of inspection:	12 th November 2024	