

**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 whose visas are sponsored by the college 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, with an interim inspection in November 2024. The college met all the required Standards at both inspections.

Characteristics of the college

Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary (BSSSEM) is a private Jewish seminary of further education for orthodox young women aged 16 to 20. The seminary is located in Manchester and aims to equip its students for their future lives in the orthodox community by educating them in Jewish religious knowledge, law and customs and preparing them for the world of work and family life. There are currently 195 students on roll of whom 112 are under the age of eighteen. The majority of students come from orthodox communities in Manchester, Gateshead and London, with 33 international students this year being sponsored by the college under the Home Office visa arrangements. These young women come predominantly from mainland Europe, particularly from France, with others from further afield including Israel, Australia, Canada and the USA. Almost all the students board at the college.

During the mornings, the students all follow a two-year Kodesh programme of advanced Jewish studies. This teaches the students the key concepts of Judaism, including Jewish culture, law and customs and prepares them for life in the orthodox community. The programme leads to a Level 3 qualification in Jewish studies which is accredited by Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE), a body approved by UKVI. In the afternoons, the students choose from a good range of secular academic and/or vocational courses, provided through an established partnership with Salford City College, and taught on-site by its staff. These courses lead to Advanced Level or vocational qualifications in subjects such as English, mathematics, biology, accountancy, psychology and business and finance, and equip the students for further study in higher education or the world of work, as they so choose. The afternoon programme also offers a variety of enrichment courses tailored to the students' needs and interests, including make-up, cake decoration, Pilates, zumba, budgeting, art, emotional well-being, self-development and an 18-week course in hairdressing. All girls gain a First Aid certificate. A few older students are also following on-line degree courses while at the seminary.

Main Findings of the Interim Inspection

BSSSEM continues to meet all of the Standards for private colleges agreed with UKVI and to provide a good quality of education for all its students irrespective of age and ability. The college ensures that all students follow a full-time course of study. The Kodesh curriculum is instructive and relevant. It is kept under review by senior rabbis who are continually developing its programme of work so that the course remains interesting and suitably challenging for students of all abilities. The academic, vocational and enrichment courses are particularly strong in range and quality, and are exceptionally well-managed. Regular close assessment and analysis of outcomes in the academic programme track students' progress and demonstrate clearly the value added by the college tutors and how each girl is helped to achieve her best. This feature reflects the seminary's response to the aspirations of the modern orthodox community and its own commitment to preparing Jewish young women for the world of work, encouraging them thereby to fulfil professional ambitions alongside personal desires to run a Torah-true home and family. High retention, attendance and completion rates, together with a high percentage of qualifications gained by students, continue to illustrate the success of the seminary for all students. All students with study visas progress well, including those whose first language is not English.

The students achieve well. They also make excellent friendships and enjoy the social side of seminary life. They help in the local orthodox community, enjoy baking and cooking, appreciate the trips and outings organised for them by the seminary, and get involved in activities, such as the recent stage show, where everyone has a chance to shine. This gives the girls self-confidence. Boarding teaches them to be self-reliant, cooperative, tolerant and respectful of others. The multinational nature of the boarding community broadens their understanding of Jewish culture and traditions in other societies.

The students' welfare, health and safety is very well cared for by a team of astute and competent Aim-Habayes (matrons) who know the girls extremely well and give them excellent support and pastoral care. Medical arrangements remain strong. Wholesome and nutritious meals are prepared and served in a hygienic environment and kitchen staff are trained as required. Boarding systems work well. The students are supervised appropriately for their safety, while granted the necessary freedom to be themselves and grow as individuals. The seminary operates careful systems for the protection of students

and the security of the premises. Safeguarding systems are well-known and effective. All staff have received appropriate basic safeguarding training and know what to do in an emergency. The designated safeguarding lead and deputies have received training at the higher level required. Child protection records are well kept and monitored frequently. Appropriate liaison takes place between the seminary's safeguarding systems and those of Salford City College and the local authority, so that students are kept safe. The seminary is sensitive to those who need additional support. Attendance is recorded electronically throughout the day and monitored closely, and this enables staff to detect and follow up any absences effectively. The seminary has proper regard for the health and safety of students, including a satisfactory level of fire safety. Fire drills are held and safety equipment, alarms and lighting are checked at appropriate intervals as required, but there is scope to tighten the thread between policy, procedures and practice, and to improve the organisation of records.

The leaders and managers work together effectively for the benefit of the seminary and its students. Student recruitment has grown since the pandemic and financial planning is good. Funds are managed prudently so that the seminary can sustain its activities. However, the building is large and in some areas in need of refurbishment: maintenance is a constant expense. The seminary continues to operate safe recruitment practice and to keep an up-to-date single central record of staff appointment checks. All current and prospective students receive clear information about the seminary and there are effective systems of communication with parents and students, who know how to complain should they wish to do so.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive a further interim check in the next academic year.

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
Licence number:	88CFBXTG0
Name of Charity:	Beis Soroh Schenierer Seminary, no. 1007489
Name of Principal:	Rabbi Y Marmorstein
Type of college:	Private Jewish College of Further Education

Details of student body

Age range	16 – 20 years
-----------	---------------

Number of students on roll:		Visa	UK	Total
	Full time 18+:	20	63	83
	Full time under 18	13	99	112
	Part Time:	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	33	162	195

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mrs Jane Cooper
Date of inspection:	10 th March 2026	