



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE

The Proprietor
Al Risalah Secondary School
145 Upper Tooting Road
London
SW17 7TJ

10 April 2019

Dear Proprietor

GENDER SEPARATION IN SCHOOLS

We have already been in touch with you, either through a letter sent in February or earlier correspondence on planned changes, about how your school intends to become compliant with the Equality Act 2010, following the Al-Hijrah judgement.

Following some queries from schools which have recently been inspected by Ofsted I am writing to clarify that, from September 2018, any school segregating pupils will have this addressed by Ofsted in their inspection report. A school can no longer be judged good or outstanding in leadership and management if it is segregating pupils unlawfully. If the school has genuine and imminent plans to achieve compliance with the law, a judgement of requires improvement will normally be appropriate, but in other cases the grade will be inadequate for leadership and management.

A school's personal development judgement may also be negatively affected where it is segregating pupils by sex unlawfully. This will depend on the overall quality of the school's provision for personal development, and the severity of the impact of segregation on pupils.

You may also find it useful to refer to the Ofsted November 2018 update for schools, which touches on this and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-update-academic-year-2018-to-2019>

Yours faithfully,

Joanne Hudson
Independent Education and Boarding Team