

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	Fairfields Primary
DfE registration number	2024
Unique reference number (URN)	143766
Inspection number	10035465
Inspection date	5 June 2017
Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹ In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014'² when it opens.

The inspector looked at the school's website and a range of school documentation, including policies and practices. The visit included a tour of the new school site and a discussion with the school site manager. Discussions were held with the headteacher, assistant headteacher and head of school development. The inspector also conducted a telephone discussion with the chair of the board of trustees.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	669
Age range	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

Fairfields Primary School plans to open in September 2017 as a school for boys and girls aged between two and 11 years of age, serving the new development of Fairfields in Milton Keynes. The school is opening in response to a forecast shortage of school spaces in the area. The school is sponsored by the Inspiring Futures through Learning multi-academy trust, which recently opened another primary free school locally.

The school will be located in a brand new building with 39 nursery school places and 630 places for Reception and primary-aged school pupils. The school has 25 pupils already enrolled to start in September 2017 and anticipates a considerable number of casual admissions during the school year. Estimates drawn up in conjunction with the building contractors and the local authority suggest that pupil numbers will rise to 159 by the end of the first academic year and continue to rise to reach full capacity by 2025.

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

² www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens
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Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014³

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations relating to this part. Evidence in the school's policies stress 'high expectations for learning, behaviour and respect for each other' as well as developing learners who 'take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements'. The promotion of fundamental British values is carefully considered including through extensive links with different faiths, cultures and traditions as well as the establishment of a school council. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are likely to be a strong feature of the curriculum.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. All required policy documents have been produced including those for child protection, safeguarding, behaviour, admissions, and health and safety. The child protection and safeguarding policies confirm the school's commitment to establishing a safe environment where pupils, staff and volunteers feel secure and are encouraged to talk about any concerns they may have. The behaviour policy is designed to support positive behaviour, establish consistent routines and celebrate success.

The induction programme at the start of the first term includes training for all staff on all aspects of safeguarding as well as first aid training and fire evacuation procedures. The headteacher is the school's designated safeguarding lead and has received recent and relevant training. The headteacher and assistant headteacher have undertaken training in safer recruitment. A fire safety risk assessment is booked to take place in June. All necessary guidelines and procedures have been followed in the design and construction of the building.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record includes all of the required checks on the suitability of staff and has been completed for all staff and governors appointed to date. Entries on the register include details of when and by whom the checks were completed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should temporary or supply staff be appointed.

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/3283/contents/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will be housed in purpose-built accommodation with extensive outside spaces and accompanying nursery provision. The building, comprising 27 classrooms and science and technology, and art and music provision, has been carefully planned to ensure pupils' welfare, health and safety. The building is likely to meet all current requirements including, for example, medical facilities, regulated water, suitable toilet facilities and disabled access.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. All policies are in place and readily available to prospective parents. The website contains details of the statutory school policies and other useful information. Copies of these policies will also be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is available on the website and it is comprehensive and thoughtfully written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints. It emphasises the need to resolve problems informally before moving to more formal proceedings. The policy includes a useful section on vexatious complaints. Copies will be made available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust has a very good understanding of the regulatory requirements and documentation is thorough and detailed. Leaders are clear about their roles and determined to work cooperatively with parents and the community. School policies are suitably focused on the welfare, health, safety, security and well-being of all pupils. Leaders understand how they will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are consistently met. In their preparation to date, leaders have demonstrated that they have the necessary knowledge and understanding to successfully carry out these actions.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The equal opportunities policy confirms the school's commitment to celebrating diversity and valuing the importance of each person. Documentation is supported by an appropriate accessibility plan which fulfils the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The new building includes features such as lifts and adaptations for disabled access.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school has appointed staff who are suitably qualified and experienced. Leaders are already trained in paediatric first-aid and further training will be available before the school opens. A detailed policy document outlines the purposes and management of the early years foundation stage.

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