

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of free schools

School name	Corby Technical School
DfE registration number	999/1244
Unique reference number (URN)	1244
Inspection number	403963
Inspection dates	2 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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Context of the school

Corby Technical School is to be an 11 to 18 mixed free school sponsored by the Brooke Weston Trust and Tresham College of Further and Higher Education. It will be temporarily accommodated for its first year of operation in refurbished accommodation on the site of a new purpose-built school, the construction of which is due to start on 1 October 2012. The site, originally a local authority special school, is near to the centre of Corby and adjoins Tresham College. The school aims to provide 'an education with a strong technical bias offering a curriculum that will suit, in particular, those young people who have already shown a strong aptitude for, and interest in, technical subjects like engineering, electronics and computer programming'.

The school plans to open on 1 September 2012 with up to 75 students in Year 7; of the 59 students currently enrolled, about a third are female. The school intends to grow year-by-year, reaching its maximum capacity of 475 in 2018. It will offer boys and girls access to the National Curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9; in Years 10 and 11, students will follow the English Baccalaureate and choose from applied technical qualifications. Post-16, students will choose from academic A-level pathways and a wide range of technical, skills-based courses leading to university entry.

Work on refurbishing the school's temporary accommodation is underway and is due for completion in early August 2012. During this time, students will use sports facilities in neighbouring schools as part of their timetabled provision. In its early years, the school will work closely with its partner schools, Brooke Weston School; Corby Business School and Kettering Science School to share staff expertise and resources.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's proposed personal, social and health education and citizenship programme appropriately supports students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and reflects the school's aims. The school proposes to offer students a wide range of social and cultural activities, including visits and visitors, to promote their appreciation of technical innovation and industry, and their insight into public services and institutions in England. Policies and procedures are likely to promote high expectations of students' behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and respect for self and others. Students will be encouraged to develop their confidence, open mindedness and intellectual curiosity and become active members of the school community. Students will be expected to develop a respect for the law and for the differing views and opinions of others, including those of different faiths and cultures.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's safeguarding policy, which includes details about the local safeguarding board, reflects the guidance provided by the Secretary of State. The designated person for child protection has completed training at the required higher level; appropriate training in safeguarding is scheduled for other staff in induction sessions before the school opens so that the regulations will be met. The school has an appropriate policy for recruiting staff which takes account of safer recruitment guidelines, including obtaining and checking the provenance of written references on all applicants. An appropriate number of senior staff and advisers involved in making staff appointments have undertaken safer recruitment training. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the governing body as they are appointed.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety on trips and when in school, meet requirements. A secure computer-based record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour. The refurbishment of the temporary accommodation has been planned in consultation with the local authority fire officer to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and a comprehensive risk assessment has been drawn up. The first aid policy meets requirements and first aid training is scheduled to take place for all staff as part of their induction process. Electronic admission and attendance registers will provide the necessary information to meet requirements. The school meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are being made upon staff and the members of the governing body as they are appointed, including enhanced disclosures obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau. The Chair of the Governing Body is in the process of being checked by the Secretary of State and procedures are in place for governors to be checked as they are appointed. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness and any other checks, are complete for those already in post and in the process of being completed for those recently appointed. The required checks are suitably recorded on the school's single central register.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. The preparation of the temporary premises to house the first intake of students is underway. Discussions with the school's project manager and the construction company's representative, indicates that the planned works are likely to be completed satisfactorily within the expected timescales. The delivery of furniture not already in store has been agreed with suppliers and specialist contractors. The teaching rooms,

including those being fitted out as a science laboratory, information and communication technology suite and learning resource centre, are of a suitable size. There are an appropriate number of washrooms for students and staff, including accessible facilities. A suitable room has been assigned for use by students who are ill. All mains services connected to the premises and are in working order. Standards of decoration, lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring, all of which are currently being refurbished, are likely to meet requirements. There are sufficient exit routes in the case of emergency and the accommodation is accessible to those in wheelchairs. The dining area is of sufficient size for the number of students sought and hot and cold meals prepared off-site will be served. A scrutiny of orders and invoices confirms that the provision of furnishings and fittings is likely to meet requirements. Suitably paved and grassed areas are available for students' recreation and sports. The school hall will be used for physical education lessons, together with nearby off-site specialist facilities.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 475

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): n/a

Recommended age range: 11 to 18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a