

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of all types of academies and free schools/studio schools/university technical colleges (UTC)

School name	Dixons Trinity Academy
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Reporting inspector	Zahid Aziz

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Context of the school

Dixons Trinity Academy is a part of the Dixons City Academy Charitable Trust, which also sponsors other academies across Bradford. The academy will be based in what was previously a NHS nursing training school. The building is spacious and has three floors and a basement. It will share part of the ground floor for the first year with Dixons Music Primary Academy. The academy will serve a wide area of Bradford. It will have an age range of 11-16 years and will ultimately have an intake of 780 pupils. To date, 112 pupils are registered to enrol for the Year 7 class for September 2012 when the academy is due to open. Its aims are based on the Dixon City Academy ethos which includes the aim to be: 'a centre of educational excellence serving the whole community of Bradford. Our students meet and work together in a well-ordered and harmonious and happy community drawn from all cultures and backgrounds across the city'. There are at least 13 pupils registered who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, but these children do not have statements of special educational needs. The academy has no particular religious affiliation.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The regulations are likely to be met although implementation cannot be checked until the academy opens. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspect of the curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to reflect on topics such right and wrong in personal development study programme and assemblies. This is replicated in the academy code of conduct and positive behaviour policy, extra-curricular activities and 'students' voice' - the school council. The curriculum includes an emphasis on the importance of developing pupils' spiritual thoughts on the meaning and purpose of human existence. As a part of moral development, there will be opportunities to help pupils to build up the skills and confidence to make decisions. Pupils will acquire the skills and personal qualities necessary to live and function effectively in society as a citizen, parent or worker in a community. These skills are planned to be developed particularly through art, drama, music, languages, science and technology.

The curriculum documents also indicate that the pupils will have opportunities to develop a broad knowledge of public institutions and services such as justice system and human rights. There will be occasions when pupils will participate in providing services to the community, utilise their skills and interest to help others. Charity fund-raising events will focus on major world issues so that pupils will learn to help and respect others from very different backgrounds who are less well off. Pupils will have opportunities to study other religions and faiths in order to develop tolerance and understanding of other communities and cultures which are different from their own.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The evidence scrutinised during the visit indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The academy has produced appropriate policies for safeguarding and child protection. These include suitable staff recruitment arrangements, including procedures for all the required checks to be made on staff suitability. The headteacher has attended safer recruitment training and another member of staff has been trained as the designated person for child protection with an appropriate level of training. Further training in child protection is planned as part of the induction arrangements for all staff prior to the academy opening so that requirements will be met. Appropriate policies have been prepared for behaviour management, sanctions and rewards and anti-bullying, together with appropriate arrangements for the recording of incidents and accidents.

The health and safety policy includes suitable first aid and medical treatment procedures. Sufficient first aiders are already trained. The health and safety policy identifies staff roles and responsibilities for fire safety arrangements and for emergency evacuation of the premises. The requirement for appropriate risk assessments and approval for outside visits is met in the educational visits policy. A fire risk assessment is in place for the existing premises and will be updated once refurbishment work has been completed. Arrangements are currently being made with contractors for the servicing and maintenance of fire safety equipment, including alarms, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers, so that requirements will be met. An electronic management system has been purchased and is ready for the completion of the admission and attendance registers. The academy has planned well to increase accessibility, as required by the Equality Act 2010, and will be extending its existing plan to review the possibility of further increasing access as the refurbishment proceeds

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The academy's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and its implementation of the checks to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. The academy has implemented its recruitment policy with respect to all appointments including taking up staff employment references. Details of all checks on the suitability of staff and proprietors have been entered on an appropriate single central register which is kept electronically. The academy does not plan to employ supply staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The academy is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. The academy is to be located in modern premises that were previously a NHS nursing training school. The building is spacious and has three floors and a basement. The academy will use most of the building eventually but will initially share part of the ground floor with its sister academy which will move out to purpose-built premises adjacent to the current site in its second year. In phase one, it is planned that the accommodation will be

reconfigured and refurbished to provide suitable accommodation to house 112 pupils for the coming academic year based on the ground, first and second floors with access to the auditorium housed in the basement. The classrooms are spacious and there will be specialist facilities, for example for information and communication technology, design and technology and science. There is an appropriate area allocated for those pupils who are ill. There are sufficient toilet facilities for the needs of boys and girls. There are disabled toilets on each floor and there is an existing lift giving access to the upper floors for those with a disability. On certain occasions, Dixons Music Primary Academy will use special facilities such as the auditorium, sports hall or laboratory facilities to enrich the younger pupils' learning experience. They will be accompanied by their own staff.

The refurbishment work is at an early stage and is being overseen by the department's delivery agent, the Education Funding Agency. Work on the refurbishment of the premises is likely to be completed ahead of the proposed opening date in September. The second phase is expected to be completed in time for the following academic year in September 2013. The Department will wish to continue to monitor the progress directly with the agency. The refurbishment plans include the provision for an outside sports area and car parking.

- The academy has undertaken to ensure that the building and grounds will meet all of the regulations relating to premises by the time the building comes into use.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

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

The Department will wish to continue to monitor the progress of refurbishment works directly with the Education Funding Agency.

Recommended number of day pupils: 780 (112 in the first year)

Recommended age range: 11-16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.