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

School name     Emmanuel Community School
DfE registration number  NA
Unique reference number (URN)  138258
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Reporting inspector  Helena McVeigh
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Context of the school

Emmanuel Community School plans to open in September 2012 as a co-educational Christian primary school with provision for 30 places for Reception-age children. The school will be located in temporary adapted accommodation in the Emmanuel Christian Centre, just off Walthamstow High Street. The school plans to move after a year to a permanent site a short distance away in a purpose-built local Voluntary Aided primary school building. The roll will rise year on year to become a one-form entry school for four-to-11 year old pupils. The headteacher and Reception class teacher have already been appointed for September, and the school plans to appoint a National Nursery Examinations Board trained teaching assistant and an office manager in the next two months.

The school has been set up by the Emmanuel School Trust and its aim is to provide ‘innovative teaching and learning for four-to-11 year olds in a safe, secure and stimulating environment where they can enjoy learning and develop positive relationships’. The school day will run from 8am until 6pm with a range of extended day enrichment activities.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

This standard is likely to be met, subject to satisfactory implementation, through the planned curriculum, in particular the personal, social and health education programme, religious education and through the school’s general Christian ethos and regular assemblies, which are planned to include a spiritual dimension. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies emphasise the importance of pupils taking responsibility for their own behaviour and of respect for others, using a Restorative Justice approach. The school plans to involve pupils in a range of educational visits that will expand their knowledge of public services and institutions in England and their appreciation of local and other cultures. The school’s aims promote pupils’ social development through the encouragement of team work, collaboration and giving pupils opportunities to voice their opinions and ideas and to take responsibility for themselves and others. The school also plans to support pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the International Primary Curriculum for Year 1 onwards and work towards the United Nations Children’s Fund’s Rights Respecting School accreditation.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The requirements are likely to be met, but implementation was not seen. The school has prepared all essential policies relating to welfare, health and safety, including how it will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The temporary building is already adapted for wheelchair users. The safeguarding policy has identified designated lead and deputy lead persons as well as a nominated governor.
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The headteacher has recently attended training courses at the required level in child protection, first aid and safeguarding, including safer recruitment training for which a suitable policy is in place. There are plans to train all staff and governors, before school starts, in child protection and first aid, and for further training in safer recruiting for governors later in the school year. The planned adaptations to the current temporary site have been designed to ensure the safety and security of children and staff.

There are written policies that promote pupils’ good behaviour and set out the rights and responsibilities of pupils, parents, carers and staff. The focus of the policies is on promoting the school’s values and of respect. There are appropriate policies on anti-bullying, safety on educational visits and first aid. Risk assessments have been undertaken for a number of events, such as summer fairs, with a template and guidelines for teachers to use for other activities. The school has an admissions and attendance register, ready for use and is likely to meet requirements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The procedures for vetting staff are suitable and there is a single central record that includes all the necessary checks on appointed staff, including qualifications, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance and proof of identity. All of the governors have had CRB checks. Plans for vetting future staff are appropriate. The school intends to require all volunteers to undertake CRB checks. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The temporary site is being suitably adapted to meet the needs of a Reception class and to ensure the welfare, health and safety of the children and staff. The adaptations include extra children’s toilets, improved entrance security, improved lighting and acoustics and refurbishment of a hall to be used as a classroom. The school will be separated from the existing nursery school, with different entrances. The site is enclosed and secure with adequate fire exits. Food preparation facilities are adequate for breakfasts and the school will be using an outside caterer to supply lunches. The architect plans to carry out any necessary building checks once the adaptations have been completed.

The outside play area is small and shared with the Nursery school in the morning. The school plans to improve this provision by making use of a large hall on the first floor for physical education activities and play, and to take children regularly to the nearby parks, as well as using the outdoor area in the afternoons. The school aims to move into its permanent site, which is a short distance away in Walthamstow village, in September 2013, by which time the current occupants will have moved out. This site is planned to provide a purpose built, one-form entry building.

The requirements for the current temporary premises are likely to be met.
Provision of information

The provision meets all 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 school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration (for the current site).

Recommended number of day pupils: 30 at the current temporary site. The school is seeking registration for up to 210 pupils for the permanent site. Recommended age range: currently for 30 children. The school is seeking registration for pupils aged from 4 to 11 years of age. Recommended gender of pupils: mixed