

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

School name	Harris Primary Free School Peckham
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	138270
Inspection number	403979
Inspection dates	20 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Helena McVeigh

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Context of the school

The Harris Primary Free School plans to open in September 2012 as a mixed, non-denominational primary school, close to the bustling Peckham High Street. One wing of the Harris Academy Peckham, which is a secondary school, is in the process of being refurbished to accommodate up to 420 primary pupils, in two forms of entry from Reception to Year 6. The school plans to start with two Reception classes and to grow by one year group each year. The school will be led by the Executive Principal of the academy that shares its proposed site. Two Reception class teachers, two teaching assistants, one of whom is National Nursery Examination Board trained, a meals supervisor and receptionist have already been appointed for September. The Harris Foundation will manage the school and plans to provide access to some of its other resources such as support for the management of finances and human resources, and coordination of special educational needs. In addition, they propose to use specialist teachers from the academy to teach modern foreign languages, music and dance to the primary pupils.

The school's aim is to 'make the first school years as enjoyable as possible and develop in (pupils) a real enthusiasm for learning' through a 'well rounded curriculum'. The school emphasises the importance of reading and traditional values, and aspires to help pupils be well prepared for their secondary education. It aims to offer 'wrap-around care' for pupils with a breakfast club, after-school and holiday clubs.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to satisfactory implementation.

The school has a policy that sets out its aspirations for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the school's proposed ethos emphasises the importance of good behaviour and self-discipline. The behaviour policy sets out clear expectations and encourages pupils to show respect and to take responsibility for their own behaviour. The anti-bullying policy includes a contract to be signed by pupils and their parents/carers.

Plans for the curriculum include opportunities for discussion, reflection, group work and circle time in order to promote pupils' self-knowledge, social skills, moral understanding and spirituality. Time for pupils to reflect is planned as part of each assembly.

The curriculum themes are planned to provide a range of trips to develop pupils' awareness of public institutions and services and their cultural understanding. For example, curriculum plans refer to visits to the Dulwich Art Gallery, the local library

and markets, fire station and recycling centres. The school's population is likely to represent a diverse and rich range of cultures and the curriculum plans reflect this and include topics such as religious festivals, life in the Caribbean and Black History Month, aimed at developing pupils' tolerance and understanding of a wide range of cultures and beliefs.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school has prepared all necessary policies in relation to ensuring pupils' welfare, health and safety. The policies for behaviour and anti-bullying meet requirements and set out the sanctions to be applied when misdemeanours occur, in easy-to-follow flow charts. The child protection and safeguarding policies are comprehensive and appropriate. They have named the Executive Principal as the designated person; he has had the appropriate level of training. The two appointed teachers have received recent training in paediatric first aid as well as child protection and safeguarding, and there are plans for the rest of the staff to receive this training in early September before term starts so that requirements will be met.

The school's safer recruitment policy meets requirements. The nominated Chair of the Governing Body, who has had safer recruitment training, has been involved in all of the staff appointments for the free school. Appropriate checks have been carried out on new staff, or are in the process of being carried out in the case of very recent appointments.

The educational visits policy sets out how pupils' safety will be assured and includes risk assessment guidance and templates to be completed by staff before visits are undertaken. Parents and carers have already been asked to sign an agreement for their children to be taken on educational trips. The admission register is in place, with details gathered on all pupils likely to attend in September, and appropriate arrangements for an electronic register once school starts. The two Reception teachers have met with all of the children and their parents and carers and they plan to make home visits early next term.

There are appropriate policies relating to fire risks and plans to undertake a fire risk assessment once the refurbishment works have been completed. The school building has been designed to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 with, for example, disabled toilets being established on each floor.

This standard is likely to meet requirements, although implementation was not seen.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Recruitment procedures are appropriate and staff have been vetted as necessary, or arrangements for doing so are well underway. The single central register includes all expected details such as name, address, date of birth, staff qualifications, where relevant, evidenced when and by whom. List 99 checks have been carried out on all new staff and Criminal Records Bureau checks are underway for very recent

appointments. Relevant checks have also been undertaken for the named school governors. The school does not intend to use supply staff as they have arrangements for internal cover or use of staff from another Harris primary academy nearby where staff have all been appropriately vetted.

All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Part of the Harris Academy is in the process of being refurbished to accommodate the primary school. In addition, the building has been extended to add a hall for dining, assemblies and physical education. All the necessary checks relating to the requirements of the Education School Premises Regulations 1999 have been made or are planned for when the building work is complete, so that requirements will be met on opening. Emergency exits are being installed to ensure safe evacuations should the need arise. There is a medical room on the ground floor with its own toilet and washroom.

Security guards currently monitor the access to the academy from the Peckham Road, and this facility is to be shared by the primary school. Once inside the grounds, the primary school is intended to be separated from the academy by secure doors, with its own entrance and receptionist. The primary playground to the front of the school site will be enclosed by appropriate fencing, and access will be via a video entry phone and buzzer arrangement. The school intends to fit out the playground next term with large play apparatus, such as climbing frames and safety surfaces. The playground is of an appropriate size for the number of pupils estimated for the next few years. There are plans to develop a second playground from space at the back of the school to accommodate the number of pupils when the school is at its maximum capacity.

All of the classrooms are of a reasonable size with adequate natural light and ventilation and there is an appropriate number of toilets and wash basins on each floor. There are also rooms on each floor to be used for small groups and one-to-one tuition and support. The two Reception classrooms open out onto a shared outside space, which is due to be fenced in, separated from the main primary playground and covered so it can be used in all weathers.

Meals are intended to be served in the dining area which is adjacent to the kitchen that will be shared with the academy. The kitchen, which is in the old part of the academy building, recently received a five-star rating from the Foods Standards Agency for its food hygiene.

All requirements are likely to be met.

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 420

Recommended age range: 4 to 11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.