

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

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School name	Hyndburn Studio School
DfE registration number	888/
Unique reference number (URN)	1264
Inspection number	403983
Inspection dates	23 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Terry McKenzie

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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
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## **Context of the school**

The Hyndburn Studio School is planned to provide vocational and academic education and training in respect of four main areas of study: marketing and media, automotive technology, catering and hospitality and sports and leisure. The sponsors are Accrington and Rossendale College and Rhyddings Business and Enterprise School. Located in the heart of Accrington, Lancashire, the studio will have sole occupancy of a building currently used for other educational purposes and will then move across the road to permanent accommodation later in the academic year. The studio will have access to the catering resources in a building very close to the school. It will also use sports facilities, workshops and laboratories at Accrington and Rossendale College about a mile away. It is planned that the studio will have an age range of 14 to 19 years and will ultimately accommodate 300 students of mixed gender and all abilities including any with special educational needs or learning difficulties and disabilities. The intake will be staged over three years but the studio is due to open in early September 2012. It is planned that the new building will become available by March 2013. Through being a small school with small classes the studio aims to offer a personalised and supportive learning environment. Close links with local and national employers will encourage students to gain qualifications and develop work skills that will lead to purposeful jobs, apprenticeships or higher education. The school plans to deliver opportunities for students to gain academic and vocational qualifications and intends that they will spend a significant portion of their weekly time in real work. There is no specific religious affiliation but the studio plans to encourage students to attend from all the different cultural heritages of the local area.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

The regulations are likely to be met by the planning although implementation cannot be checked until the studio opens. The planned curriculum aims to enable students to reach their full potential in their chosen areas of study thus enhancing their self-confidence and self-worth. The enrichment programme is designed to help students recognise and engage with different aspects of the local community. There is a strong emphasis on practical activity and the use and integration of information and communication technology (ICT). It is planned that these studies will enhance students' self-confidence and self-esteem. Communications between all students, their families and staff should be simplified through the use of ICT and much high quality interactive technology is being installed to facilitate teaching and learning. Schemes and plans for citizenship, personal and social education are designed to highlight the development of self-knowledge, the acceptance of responsibility for personal behaviour and the development of initiative. Furthermore, it is planned that learning coaches will always be at hand to counsel and guide students. The studio holds no religious affiliation but intends to welcome students from any or no religious background and plans to encourage all to explore work places associated with the diverse nature of this part of Lancashire. Students will be expected to contribute to

the community of the studio, for example through the preparation of food for consumption by members of the studio at lunchtime. Students will take part in fund raising with local organisations and charities. Strong links with potential local and national employers have already been established and plans for students to contribute to the wider community through work experience and vocational placements are already in place. These are designed to promote students' resilience and confidence. Events such as displays and promotions to develop and enhance vocational skills are being considered. The planned citizenship curriculum indicates how students will develop a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services. The planning emphasises the undertaking of trips and visits to a wide variety of cultural centres and places of worship so as to develop students' respect and tolerance for different cultures. The celebration of events associated with different religions and cultures together with visitors coming into the studio will supplement these activities.

## **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The regulations are likely to be met by planning although implementation cannot be checked until the studio opens. The systems for recording the admission of students and their attendance have been established and are appropriate. Suitable policies for welfare, behaviour, health and safety both on- and off-site, fire-safety, safeguarding and child-protection, first aid and anti-bullying are in place. All have regard for the latest guidance and include dates for review. Risk assessments and supervision schedules have been compiled to help ensure that students can work and play safely in all of the locations used by the school. A designated officer for safeguarding and child-protection has been identified and plans are advanced for the officer and further staff to receive the required advanced training by the time the studio opens. Plans are in place to provide all staff with appropriate safeguarding training before the students are admitted so that the regulations are likely to be met. Training records have already been established. They are designed to monitor staff training events and to highlight dates for renewal. All staff will receive training in first aid and fire safety. A suitable safe recruitment policy is in place and it is being followed through the studio undertaking all of the required checks. An appropriate fire risk assessment and audit are in place for the initial site and requirements are likely to be met as a fire officer from the local authority has agreed to undertake a visit to this building; the fire officer's report will be submitted to the Department for Education. The building to be used in the first instance is covered at present by the landlord's access policy and improvement plan. The studio has confirmed that a new three-year plan will be devised in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 prior to the occupation of the building and updated if and when any accessibility difficulties become apparent.

## **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

All requirements are likely to be met. Studio staff are in the process of being recruited. All are being checked as required and the checks recorded on the single central register. Arrangements for the recruitment of further new staff are appropriate and meet the requirements. While the requirements are not applicable at present, there are protocols in place to check any staff recruited from overseas or

any staff who might be employed through agencies. All other adults coming into regular contact with students will have the full range of safeguarding checks carried out on them and the checks recorded on the register.

## **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

All requirements are likely to be met. The fixtures, fittings and décor are entirely appropriate at the site to be used at opening and they are of a high standard throughout. The premises and accommodation are suitable for the needs of the student group including any with special educational needs or mobility difficulties. The premises and accommodation are safe, welcoming and appropriate for the needs of the studio. Off-site education for specialist areas of learning and practical activity are to be provided at Accrington and Rossendale College and the nearby Globe Theatre. Safe outside play space is available at the studio whilst games and physical education will take place at the college. The classrooms and areas to be used by students working with learning coaches are designed so that staff and students can work together as is most appropriate. It is planned that toilet facilities will meet the requirements for the number of students and an appropriate medical room is being constructed close to the toilets for students who may become ill so that requirements will be met on opening. Plans are in place for a nearby building to be made available later in the academic year and equipped with specialist teaching and learning facilities.

## **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**

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 300

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): N/A

Recommended age range: 14-19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.