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

School name: Hyndburn Studio School
DfE registration number: 888/
Unique reference number (URN): 1264
Inspection number: 403983
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Reporting inspector: Terry McKenzie
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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.