

# 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                   | The LeAF Studio School |
| DfE registration number       | 2000                   |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 13885                  |
| Inspection number             | 404012                 |
| Inspection dates              | 19 July 2012           |
| Reporting inspector           | Barry King             |

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## Context of the school

The LeAF Studio School will be situated in the north of the borough of Bournemouth. The term 'LeAF' stands for 'Learning and Achievement Federation' and the new studio school will form part of this federation that currently includes Oakmead College of Technology and Elmrise Primary School. The studio school is due to open on 1 September 2012, when the other two schools in the federation also become academies.

The studio school plans to have 343 students on roll in September 2012, rising to 500 in 2014. The school will cater for male and female students from 14 to 19. It is planned that slightly over half of the students will be of sixth form age by 2014. It anticipates having three students with special educational needs in September 2012, none of whom will have a statement of special educational needs. The new school is sponsored by the existing federation and it will have the same governing body as the other two schools already federated. An executive Principal, already in post, will lead all three parts of the federation. The day-to-day running of the studio school will be the responsibility of three directors who have individual responsibility for the three pathways the school provides, namely elite sport, apprenticeships and enterprise. The school has no religious affiliation.

During its first year, the students will mainly be educated within Oakmead Technology College, with the studio school purchasing the provision. The school's provision will be substantially supplemented by work experience, especially in the sixth form where it will account for two days per week. A new block for the studio school is planned to open by September 2013, which will be located on the same campus as Oakmead. When this new building is completed, the teaching in Oakmead will be reduced to approximately 70% of the total for 14 to 16 students and will be less for sixth formers.

The school's aim is for its students to 'act as professionals in a professional environment'. It intends to implement a curriculum that blends academic and vocational pathways to higher education and employment through personalised and independent learning.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

The intended provision could not be seen, but the plans for the proposed school indicate that all the regulations will be met. A major part of the new school's provision will be to develop the self-confidence and initiative of students through the working environments on employers' premises with, for example, induction through mock interviews when taking up work experience placements. Assemblies are being planned as lectures that will build on moral themes to encourage students to take responsibility for their behaviour. Students' understanding of English institutions and

services, insights into other cultures and tolerance for these cultures will be supported through the humanities curriculum, including religious education, and through the personal, social and health education programme taught in Oakmead Technology College.

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

Implementation could not be seen, but robust planning suggests that requirements are all likely to be in place by the time the school opens. All required policies are ready, for example those on behaviour, equality of opportunity, safeguarding, safer recruitment and child protection. The designated person has been trained at the appropriate level in child protection and training has been arranged for all staff before the school opens so that requirements will be met. Arrangements, including relevant training, are in place for risk assessments. Three members of staff are to be trained over the summer holidays in assessing risk at potential work experience environments. Accident and incident registers are ready for use. Fire safety requirements are likely to be met. Staff with first-aid expertise will be trained and named so that requirements will be met. Registration will be handled through a tried and tested electronic system, which facilitates rapid follow up of absence. A member of staff is being appointed for September to coordinate admissions and attendance arrangements.

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

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met. All staff being appointed to the new school are appropriately vetted, with Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks made before they take up their appointments. Due to the recent nature of some appointments, checks have not all been completed but the school confirms it will complete the process before it opens so that requirements are met. Where it is not possible to obtain CRB checks for members of staff from overseas, the school plans to make full risk assessments and obtain certificates of good conduct from the home countries as required. The school does not intend to use supply teachers from agencies, appointing instead its own learning supervisors to cover classes, all of whom will be CRB checked. The school's leader and the human resources staff are aware of the required checks should it be necessary to use agency staff. The school maintains a single central register that contains the names of all adults who will be in the school, including site managers and governors. The key information on CRB checks and on other checks is clearly displayed; the register will be completed for new appointments before the school opens.

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

The school is likely to meet the requirements of this standard. The majority of the teaching in the coming academic year will take place in Oakmead Technology College. The 1950s building is expensive to maintain but has been maintained in a way that makes it a suitable environment for education. Studio school students will

have a small base building, with appropriate facilities and fittings, which is designed to give students a sense of separate identity from the host school. Shared outdoor areas are extensive. The planned new block for the studio school has met building regulations and is awaiting final planning permission. It will be built on the other side of the playing field from Oakmead to strengthen its own identity. Appropriate arrangements are planned for the security of the whole campus and the routeways that connect the different parts of it.

## **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. For example, relevant policies are available on the proposed school's website, or will be available from specific members of staff, or both. It is planned to provide parents with a full annual report, supplemented by five interim reports during the course of the year. The school's academic performance will be posted on its website. Staff will be listed in the school's prospectus.

## **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The planned 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.**

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 500

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

Recommended age range: 14 to 19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.