

# Advice note for pre-registration inspections of free schools

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School name	Lighthouse School
DfE registration number	383/2000
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Inspection number	403987
Inspection dates	18 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail

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## Context of the school

Lighthouse School is a free special school sponsored by Leeds Lighthouse Trust. The school will initially be based in the Derek Fatchett Community Learning Centre in Leeds and, after a year, it will move to its permanent building, which is at present going through some renovation work. The school will serve Leeds and the surrounding area. The school is planned to be opened to students with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) in September 2012 for an age range of 11-19 years. The school intends to start with 10 students of mixed gender. The numbers will gradually increase to 50 when the school moves into its permanent building. At present seven students are registered for enrolment in Year 7 for September; all of them have a statement of special educational needs and they are all funded by the local authority. At present, there are no students registered who are at the early stage of learning English. The school aims: 'to help pupils to develop meaningful skills for life in a safe and caring environment'. The school is not affiliated to any faith community and it is open to students from all backgrounds.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

Documentary evidence indicates that all the regulations in this standard are likely to be met by the planning but implementation could not be checked. The school's vision is to enable students to develop their 'academic skills, life skills, social skills and communication skills'. The school's learning programme is based on 'Every Child Matters' principles, which stresses on the importance of building students' self-esteem in an appropriate environment. The school, through this programme, intends to help students build their self confidence by achieving in a range of different tasks and activities. The schemes of work for personal, social and health education (PSHE) and religious studies (RS) programmes will strongly support student's personal development. The school's RS programme follows the local Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education guidelines. The PSHE programme is designed to promote the importance of leadership and to encourage community initiatives such as fund raising for charities and helping in the community. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies are linked appropriately with the personal development programme. There are plans for visiting places relating to different cultures and speakers from different backgrounds will be invited to talk to students. There is a programme of extra-curricular activities which will take place during lunch times and after school. This programme will include the formation and running of the school council, sports clubs, team building events, music, drama and dance activities. In their citizenship programme, the students will learn about the global community. The school's citizenship and history programmes will enable students to learn about Britain's public institutions and political system and also about democracy. The school stresses the importance of respect and tolerance for cultures other than those of the students. The RS programme includes the study of major faiths and cultures in the

UK and around the world. Plans are in place to offer students personal counselling sessions and career advice. The policy for students' personal and social development emphasises the importance of establishing a school community based on its ethos, values and procedures. The school's pastoral programme also intends to promote good behaviour and ethics in the light of the school's ethos.

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

The school's planning is likely to meet all regulatory requirements in this standard although implementation could not be seen. The required range of welfare and health and safety policies, including first aid and safeguarding policies, has been produced and the policies follow national guidelines. The requirements for appropriate risk assessments and approval for outside visits are detailed in the educational visits policy. Fire and health and safety risk assessments are in place for the existing premises. Anti-bullying and good behaviour policies are in place and will be supported by a suitable range of rewards and sanctions. The school has an appropriate number of staff who have up-to-date training in first aid. The designated person for child protection (the headteacher) is trained at the required level. Child protection training for all staff is included in the school's training programme prior to opening so that requirements will be met. Suitable safe recruitment procedures are built into the safeguarding policy and have been implemented correctly in the appointment of staff. A database has been established to include registers for registration and admissions. The school has a three-year access development plan which meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

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

The planning for safe recruitment and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. Checks on the suitability of staff have been completed and all existing governors have had a Criminal Records Bureau check. A suitable single central register has been constructed and details of all required staff checks are being entered correctly as they are received by the school.

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

The present and proposed premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. The school's present premises are likely to meet the standards for adequate teaching space, security and decoration. The premises will provide a safe and secure environment. The number of classrooms and toilets for students and staff is sufficient. The proposed future premises are undergoing refurbishment so as to meet the requirements.

### **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.**

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 50 (10 students in the first year)

Recommended age range: 11-19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: ASD.