

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

School name	The London Academy of Excellence
DfE registration number	TBC
Unique reference number (URN)	138403
Inspection number	407160
Inspection dates	9 August 2012
Reporting inspector	David Scott

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090080.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2012



Context of the school

The London Academy of Excellence (LAE) plans to open as a mixed, non-denominational day school for students aged from 16 to 19 years of age, with provision in its first year for 220 places for Year 12 students. There are 220 students already on roll. The school will be located in a former local government building which is currently undergoing refurbishment. In the long term, the school aims to provide a total of 400 places. The headteacher, 17 full-time teachers and four part-time teachers have already been appointed.

At the heart of the school's vision is the intention to give its students the opportunities and skills to enable them to make independent and informed choices, in order to gain a passport of good qualifications which will equip them to enter and flourish at prestigious universities. Through its partnerships with independent schools, LAE aims to enable its students not only to leave with excellent examination grades but also with the social skills and learning habits, as well as the passion, enthusiasm and personal confidence, that will help them to succeed in the future.

Working in partnership with parents and carers will be a top priority, with an already planned programme of information evenings designed to give parents and carers the necessary skills to actively support the students.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to the satisfactory implementation of the planned curriculum. The intended ethos of the school, which emphasises the fostering of the highest aspirations 'to achieve and celebrate the intellectual, social and emotional growth' of all its students, is at the heart of its planned provision for personal, social and health education. There is a planned broad spectrum of opportunities for students to explore their personal journeys of faith. An extensive programme of trips and visits is planned to broaden cultural horizons so that all students can develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

The planned programme of assemblies and schemes of work seeks to ensure that students are afforded opportunities to appreciate and respect traditions and cultures other than their own. Social development will be further promoted by allowing learners to take on posts of responsibility within the house structure, whereby they will be able to hone their leadership skills by organising and running extra-curricular activities.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All policies relating to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are in place and are compliant with current requirements. Subject to implementation, this standard is likely to be met. Two senior members of staff have been trained at the required level as the school's designated child protection officers and a further member of staff will be trained by the beginning of September. All staff will receive training in safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening in September so that all requirements can be met. In addition, one member of staff has already received first-aid training. Plans are in place to enable two further staff to gain qualifications in first aid. The headteacher and business director have been trained in safer recruitment and have applied these principles in the appointment of all staff. The school has provided confirmation that all the required training will be completed before the school opens, and will send the appropriate evidence to the Department for Education (DfE).

The school has in place detailed policies and procedures to assess and manage health and safety risks around the school site, including those for trips and visits. These include the behaviour policy which sets high expectations where students are afforded opportunities to earn 'privileges' which form part of a suite of appropriate rewards and sanctions. The complete refurbishment of the building is due to be completed by January 2013, with two floors ready for September 2012. Evacuation procedures, together with the necessary fire checks, are in place or planned. Appropriate attendance and admission registers are ready for use. As the school will be located in a former local government building, only very minor modifications are needed in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The school has an appropriate plan in place to meet these improvements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All appointed staff are suitably vetted and these checks are captured in a single central record which includes all members of the governing body. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but, if the need arises, appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A tour of the site, scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works confirm that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September 2012. Overall, the installation of washrooms, including five disabled toilets, one located on each floor, ensures that the school exceeds the required ratio. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed to provide a learning environment rich in technology resources to promote independent learning. These are likely to meet requirements. The planned building will have full access for those with disabilities via a ramped entrance and a lift to all floors. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the school. A medical room is

planned and will be centrally located with washrooms nearby, all suitably equipped. All requirements are likely to be met.

Provision of information

The school website provides the required information, including the prospectus. All policies are available and hard copies of all documentation will be provided for parents and carers upon request. The school intends that parents and carers will receive three reports a year on students' progress, two of which will involve face-to-face meetings and one a written report. The provision meets all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all of 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: 400 pupils in the present premises

Recommended age range: 16 to 19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.