

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 | Parkside Studio College |
| DfE registration number | To be advised |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 138368 |
| Inspection number | 403995 |
| Inspection dates | 12 July 2012 |
| Reporting inspector | David Scott |

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Context of the school

The Parkside Studio College plans to open as a mixed, non-denominational 14 to 19 day school with provision in its first year for 60 places in each of Years 10 and 12. There are 60 Year 10 students already registered to enrol. For the academic year 2012–13, the studio college will open in an existing building located on a multi-user shared campus. In the long term, the studio college aims to provide a total of 300 places. The Principal, 12 full-time and six part-time teachers have already been appointed.

Parkside's mission is to ensure that all young people are equipped with the necessary workplace skills and qualifications so that they are 'work-ready'. The studio college aims to offer 'something different, something new and something that is quite unique' that will combine 'learning with working' within a state-of-the art environment, so that each student has the widest possible choice to ensure success. Six specialist curriculum pathways cover media, construction, hairdressing and beauty therapy, health and social care, hospitality, and catering or sport. Strong pro-active partnerships with local and international companies are a high priority to ensure that students have the opportunity to experience work-based training at an industrial standard.

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 studio's intended ethos, based on professional standards of behaviour and respect as in the world of work and business, is reflected in the planned personal, social, health and education programme. Each student will receive three hours a week of personal coaching to promote and develop self-esteem, skills and values. Social development will be further promoted by a pre-workplace programme, for example by a visit to a local international broadcaster working to produce a 90-second news report. The planned provision clearly emphasises that students will be exposed to new cultural experiences, initially through the daily student briefings. They will learn about religious diversity, particularly in West London, through specific projects such as Transforming my Community. They will make a study of the local area and learn how to work and appreciate people from different beliefs, traditions and cultures other than their own on work experience placements. A programme of visits and speakers is planned so that students can develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

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. By the end of August, two senior members of staff will be trained as the school's designated child protection officers. All staff will either have been trained or will receive training in safeguarding procedures prior to the college opening in September so that requirements are met, as noted below. In addition, six members of staff have already received training and plans are in place for a further six to gain qualifications in first aid. The Principal, together with senior members of staff across the academy trust, has received training in safer recruitment and has applied these principles to the appointment of all staff. All staff will complete the NSPCC online safeguarding training at the end of August, prior to the opening of the studio in September. In addition, all students will undertake pre-workplace in-house health and safety and first aid training. Parkside Studio College has provided confirmation that the training will be completed before the studio opens, and will send the appropriate evidence to the Department for Education (DfE), so that the requirements will be met in full.

The studio college has in place detailed policies and procedures to assess and manage health and safety risks around the site. These include the behaviour policy in the studio and on work placements or visits combined with an appropriate range of sanctions and rewards. The refurbishment of the premises is due to be completed by mid- August and evacuation procedures, together with the necessary fire checks, are in place or planned. Appropriate attendance and admission registers are ready for use. Being originally a school building, the property only requires very minor modifications in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The studio has an appropriate three-year plan in place to support 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 volunteers and all members of the governing body. Should the need arise, the college will employ supply staff, and appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works, as well as an extensive tour of the site, confirmed that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Overall, the installation of washrooms, including two disabled toilets, ensures that the studio college exceeds the required ratio. Careful consideration has been given to the aesthetic appearance of the building. Although the studio college is a development within the campus site, it will be distinctive from the rest of the campus, for example it will have its own separate entrance. Provision for the insulation and acoustics of the building has been given careful consideration and is a strong feature of the refurbishment. Furniture, fixtures and fittings are of good quality and reflect the corporate business environment. These are likely to meet requirements. The building already has access for those with disabilities to the ground floor and a newly-installed lift now enables full access

to the first floor. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the studio college. A medical room is planned as an integral part of the administrative suite and will be suitably equipped. All requirements are likely to be met.

Provision of information

The studio college website provides the required information, including the prospectus. All policies are available online and hard copies of all documentation will be provided for parents and carers upon request. The calendar states that parents and carers will receive termly updates together with a full written report once a year on their children's progress. The provision meets all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet 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: 300 pupils in the present premises

Recommended age range: 14 to 19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.