

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 | Perry Beeches II Free School |
| DfE registration number | 999/1276 |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 1276 |
| Inspection number | 403996 |
| Inspection dates | 3 July 2012 |
| Reporting inspector | Deborah Sanders |

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Context of the school

Perry Beeches II proposed free school is to be located in a large building previously owned by a water company. It is in the Ladywood area of Birmingham, close to the city centre. The school will be overseen by the Perry Beeches Academy Trust and is due to open on 3 September 2012. The school has applied to admit up to 650 boys and girls in the age range 11 to 18 years. It will admit students in Year 7 and Year 12 in its first year, using the ground floor and first floor of the building and re-developed outdoor activity space. The school plans to open the second phase which will encompass the remaining two floors and basement area by April 2013. The school will be non-selective and will include students who are disabled or who have special educational needs. This inspection visit, including scrutiny of documentation and discussions with the headteacher designate and chief executive was conducted on the proposed school site.

The aim of this school is to be student centred. All activities will be highly focused on accelerating student achievement and developing young people, so they are able to take their place confidently in society. This will be supported by a team approach, a broad and balanced curriculum, personalised learning and engagement with business and the local community.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

All the regulations are likely to be met; implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's aims and values, together with its spiritual, moral, social, health and citizenship programmes, put students' personal development and academic progress at the centre of all its work. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies encourage and develop an understanding of right and wrong and the rewards and consequences of personal decisions. The school's aims and values place an emphasis on the development of independence, co-operation, innovation and motivation. Planned themes within the program for personal, social and health education are designed to encourage students' to acquire the skills and attitudes which will enable them to manage their lives as young adults within the wider community. It is designed to enable students to understand and respect the varied cultural, religious and moral views of the various individuals and groups within society and to value the opinion of others.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All regulations are likely to be met. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. All the required documents are in place and contain all the required information. These include comprehensive policies for safeguarding,

behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. There are clear policies on managing students' behaviour with sanctions in place if students do not follow the schools clear code of conduct. The school has suitable systems and procedures in place for health and safety and for ensuring that students are safe while in school and off site. Staff training in first aid has been arranged for August 2012. The schools' safer recruitment policy is appropriate and the required checks on staff and governors have been made. All teaching staff have completed basic child protection training and the designated person for child protection has undertaken higher level training and is named in the policy. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically, with paper copies available in each class room.

The fire risk assessment has been completed and recommendations made are being implemented. A full fire evacuation procedure has been developed and all staff are to familiarise themselves with its content. The school is committed to enabling equality of access to all aspects of school life. Given its plans, the school is likely to meet the requirements of the Equality Act (2010); the building is fully accessible to student's parents and visitors.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met. All checks on staff's identity, qualifications and enhanced disclosures made on them by the Criminal Records Bureau are in place; the single central record is fully completed and contains all the relevant information. The Chair of the Governing Body (as proprietor) has had all her checks undertaken through the DfE, as required.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

All regulations are likely to be met. The school is located in a former office block in the centre of Birmingham. Its planned modifications are likely to lead to it being a safe and secure environment for students to learn. It is served by local bus routes and within easy reach of the train station. The site is being refurbished with new furniture and flooring but the main structure does not require extensive building work. The school will open in two phases; the first will involve the refurbishment of the ground and first floor and outside activity area. The classrooms are large and airy with plenty of light and are suitably heated with good ventilation. There are accessible washroom facilities for boys and girls and staff on each floor and a suitable room for students who are feeling unwell. During the visit the headteacher designate was able to demonstrate through plans and documents how each area would look when completed. There is a large open dining area on the ground floor which leads to a fully equipped kitchen and preparation area. There is a large covered area which will become the outside play space with an all weather surface as well as an indoor gymnasium, dance studio and fitness centre. The grounds are fully secure with high fencing and security gates. The student entrance will be fully staffed at the beginning and the end of each day. All visitors will be required to

access the main building via the secure reception area. All staff are required to wear identification badges and all students will be required to carry their designated passbooks.

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 and national minimum standards when it opens and is recommended for registration.

Recommended number of day pupils: 650

Recommended age range: 11-18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable