

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of all types of academies

School name	Sandymoor School
DfE registration number	999/1280
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Reporting inspector	David Young

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Context of the school

The proposed Sandymoor School is located on a green field site in Sandymoor, in the Borough of Halton. The school is proposed by a group of local parents and carers to provide secondary education in the locality. The school is to be registered for up to 900 male and female students in the age range 11 to 18 years, with an intake of 120 into Year 7 and 150 into Year 12. The school will open on 3 September 2012 with an anticipated roll of 30 students in Years 7 and 8. The school will admit students with special educational needs. The school aims,

'to produce intelligent, employable global citizens that demonstrate social competence, a desire for learning and respect for each other and the world around us. The school will be recognised for excellence in science, technology, enterprise and sport'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The policy for personal, social and health education (PSHE) includes statutory guidance for the teaching of citizenship. The policy sets out a commitment to developing confidence and a sense of responsibility; developing good relationships and respecting differences between people. The policy proposes, through the curriculum, to enable students to develop their self-knowledge, to distinguish between right and wrong, and to accept responsibility for their own behaviour. Planned responsibilities for students include, for example, opportunities to run a school newspaper or to take the initiative to improve the local community. Work shadowing, work experience, visits from employers and the wider community will be used to develop a positive understanding of the world of work and individual responsibilities within it. Citizenship and PSHE will be taught through community lessons which include the intention to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of British public institutions and how to use them. They will take part in democratic processes, for example, through voting for a student council, and will understand how citizens express their views. The policy further states that students will be provided with opportunities to explore their own cultural assumptions and values; and to explore different values, beliefs and cultures, including working with young people from different cultures through a school linking project. Themes within the planned PSHE and citizenship programmes provide the structure through which these aims will be implemented, including for example: reflecting on feelings and self-managing behaviour; using social skills in a variety of contexts; challenging prejudice and discrimination; exploring diversity; advocacy and representation and; the law and justice system.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. Comprehensive policies have been prepared for safeguarding and student welfare; child protection, including the management of any allegation against staff; recruitment and appointment of staff; anti-bullying; and behaviour management. These policies provide a secure context for a consistent approach to ensuring the welfare and well-being of students. The headteacher and an additional member of staff have both been trained to the required level, and within an appropriate timescale, as designated persons for child protection. Child protection training is included in the pre-opening induction arrangements for all staff.

Similarly, firm arrangements are in place to ensure that first aid training is completed during August 2012. The policy for off-site educational visits is comprehensive and provides secure guidance, together with all preparatory proforma, to ensure staff work to a consistent set of requirements, including risk assessments. A policy for the management of risk has been devised, together with a structured proforma for assessing, recording and remedying risks within the premises. A date has been agreed for a visit from the local fire officer to draw up a fire risk assessment for the premises. Appropriate logs are available to record all required routine checks on fire safety equipment once this is installed. A management information system has been purchased on which the admission and attendance registers are currently being constructed. The system also incorporates a facility for recording details of incidents and sanctions for any incidents of serious misbehaviour.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Staff appointments have been made in line with the school's safer recruitment policy and all suitability checks have been completed, or are in the process of completion. All checks are being entered on an appropriate single central register. The register contains all required details of the governors, teaching staff, administrative and catering staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. The school premises consist of a modular building which is currently under construction for installation on the site, with on-site work commencing in the week beginning 17 July 2012. Plans are included for connection to services and the local infrastructure is in place. The accommodation will be installed on a secure, fully-fenced site with controlled entry through one gate for pedestrians. A second gate, fenced off from the external play and circulation areas, allows for vehicular access to the site, including deliveries to the kitchen. Work is proceeding in line with the project plan and is likely to be completed before the planned opening date. The school has contingency arrangements agreed for the short-term use of suitable facilities in a local primary school should the project timescale overrun. The modular accommodation will be

extended to enable an increase in numbers in the second year. An additional site has been purchased and finance held in reserve by the Department for Education (DfE), for the construction of a permanent building to accommodate the full intake of the school; planning permission is to be submitted in January 2013.

There are sufficient classrooms of suitable size to accommodate the proposed initial intake, together with sufficient washrooms, facilities for any student who may be ill, dining arrangements and office space. Classrooms include specialist facilities for the teaching of science and design and technology. There is sufficient external space for play and recreation. Additional land has been secured for physical education and games; additional facilities are available at a local sports centre and swimming pool.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all 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: 900

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): n/a

Recommended age range: 11–18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a