

# 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	Steiner Academy Frome
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1284
Inspection number	404004
Inspection dates	8 August 2012
Reporting inspector	Susan Kara

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## Context of the school

The Steiner Academy Frome in Somerset plans to open as a mixed 5 to 16 school on 3 September 2012. For the first fifteen months the school will be located at the old village school site in Corsley. Although it is in Wiltshire, this site is only four miles from the proposed permanent site. Most recently the Corsley site has been a privately-run conference centre. The building is currently being refurbished and a temporary building, providing two additional classrooms and toilet facilities, is being erected. While the school is located at the Corsley site the majority of pupils will be transferred by coaches from the proposed permanent location of the school which is at the old hospital site in Frome. This requires extensive refurbishment. There are 130 pupils registered to enrol in September, aged 4 to 9 years. The school will grow year on year until 2018. In 2015, once the school is established at its permanent site, it will almost double its offer of places per year to 52, starting with Reception. The school will eventually provide 624 places, all on the Frome site.

Seven full-time teachers including the Principal, and four part-time teachers, have been appointed. Seven teaching assistants have also been appointed.

The school aims to become an active member of the local community of schools whilst also belonging to the world-wide family of schools that share the distinctive Steiner ethos. That ethos is the nurturing of individual creativity in a culture of collaborative learning. The Steiner vision is of a school where 'pupils can flourish as whole people, achieving success and excellence from strong foundations in a wide range of skills delivered in an emotionally nurturing environment'.

## 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 school's vision underpins both the intended content and style of delivery of the curriculum. The school's values include 'the development of strong social, linguistic, imaginative and emotional foundations' and 'the appreciation of human and cultural diversity'. The aims of the proposed curriculum include supporting and valuing every learner to inspire interest in, and a love of, learning; to produce confident well-rounded individuals who are able to lead fulfilling and healthy lives; and, to motivate young people to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society. The intended pattern of teaching allows time for quiet reflection. The intended curriculum will include celebrating a wide range of religious and other festivals and will promote pupils' understanding and tolerance of cultures other than their own. When the school is fully operational it intends to offer a range of Steiner-inspired activities and services for pupils, their families and the wider community in an extended school day. A programme of citizenship education and visits is planned to help pupils develop their understanding of public institutions and services in England.

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

Although their implementation could not be seen, all of the policies that relate to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are in place and comply with current guidance. The requirements are therefore likely to be met. It is intended that behaviour management will be secured through the distinctive and proven approach of staff trained and experienced in the Steiner philosophy, including trusting, strong and respectful relationships between pupils and teachers. In addition, there is a clear policy on sanctions where behaviour is not deemed acceptable and this is supported by an appropriate anti-bullying policy.

The Principal is the designated person responsible for safeguarding, including child protection and he has undertaken appropriate training. Arrangements are in place for all staff to receive child protection training before the school opens in September so that requirements will be met. The appointed staff include two qualified first aiders. All appointments of new staff have been made in accordance with safer recruitment practice.

Admission and attendance registers are being prepared, ready for use. The school has appropriate procedures to assess and manage safety around the site and when pupils undertake off-site visits. Suitable contingency plans have been drawn up should the refurbishment not be completed at the start of term. These have due regard for the pupils' indoor and outdoor safety. The school is taking over recently-vacated conference centre facilities; the building is fully accessible and meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Fire safety and security meet current requirements.

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

All requirements are likely to be met. A private firm is in the process of carrying out all the required checks on staff that have been appointed and also the required checks on the governing body. Written evidence, which complies with current requirements, has been provided to the Principal of all the checks undertaken on each member of staff. A suitable single central record format has been drawn up and the details are all ready to enter once the school has appointed administrative staff so that requirements will be met. The Principal understands the actions necessary to comply with the existing regulations and meet best practice guidance. Because of the school's distinctive approach to learning, it will cover any staff absence from within the school staff and does not intend to use supply staff.

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

The programme of refurbishing and extending the existing school building is in progress and the building is likely to meet all the requirements. The building already meets the requirements for heating, lighting and ventilation and floor coverings. Any necessary redecoration is part of the refurbishment programme. Access is already in place for those with disabilities. The old school hall will provide dining space.

Washroom facilities are likely to meet requirements and an appropriate space has been identified for a medical room. Outdoor play space is one of the features key to the Steiner philosophy and each kindergarten class (for children aged 4 to 7 years) will have its own play area. In addition, the school adjoins common land which provides both a green field and a tarmac area.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. The school website already provides some key information. Policies will be available online but currently are available in hard copy.

### **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.

Recommended number of day pupils: 624

Recommended age range: 4 to 16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.