

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

School name	The Greenwich Free School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1290
Inspection number	404010
Inspection dates	02 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Calvin Pike

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Context of the school

The Greenwich Free School (GFS) plans to open as a mixed, non-denominational school for 11 to 18 year olds with provision in its first year for 100 places in Year 7. It will provide 700 places by 2015. There are currently 89 students registered to start in September 2012. The school will be located in temporary accommodation on the site of the permanent building that includes Adair House, Greenwich. The Principal, nine full-time and one part-time teacher have already been appointed.

The school's vision is that, 'All students can succeed, regardless of background or previous attainment.' The curriculum will concentrate on a depth of academic subjects combined with a wide programme of enrichment activities to give every student choice in achieving well. There will be a particular focus on the core subjects of English, mathematics and science to enable all students to tackle all aspects of learning with appropriate skills and confidence. Strong partnerships with parents and carers are developing with more than a quarter of homes already visited to inform, engage and enable parents and carers to support their children's learning.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Subject to the satisfactory implementation of the planned curriculum, the requirements of this standard are likely to be met. The school's personal, social, health and citizenship programme reflects its overall ethos which is predicated on a 'no excuse' culture, higher standards and mutual respect. Its extended day will involve well-being tutor periods, a programme of enrichment activities and independent study projects. The monthly 'drop down Friday' curriculum led by Greenwich Free School (GFS) staff and other providers will further support the development of meaningful and sustained relationships, provide new cultural experiences and help students to care for body and mind. They will learn about religious diversity through the subject curriculum, external visitors and trips to places of worship. A 'philosophy for children' course is intended to develop students' critical thinking and questioning. Through assemblies and awareness days, students will gain an understanding of public institutions in England and will come to appreciate cultures and traditions other than their own.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All welfare, health, safety and safeguarding policies are in place and, subject to implementation, comply with current requirements. Two staff members have already been trained in child protection to be designated child protection officers. All staff will complete training in safeguarding procedures as part of their team induction in August so that requirements are met fully. The Principal and a governor have undertaken safer recruitment training and have applied the principles fully in appointing all staff. GFS will continue to work with Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Buckinghamshire, as a provider of support for this aspect of its work. The

management structure includes a Student Development Officer linked to the work of Heads of Year who will ensure related policies and procedures are implemented consistently.

Policies and procedures are in place to assess and manage health and safety risks around the school building. The behaviour policy resonates well with the school's values in expecting high standards, identifying how students should interact together and outlining appropriate rewards and sanctions. During the summer holidays further refurbishments of the temporary premises will take place. Although the site was not available during the inspection, plans for evacuation procedures, the necessary fire checks and site security during the remaining building programme are in place and are satisfactory. Arrangements for admissions are in place along with a home–school agreement that is being shared in home visits and other meetings with parents and carers. Suitable admission and attendance registers are in place ready for use. The school has a clear long-term plan in place to manage the changes in opening the temporary building and moving to its permanent one.

Not all staff have received training in safeguarding procedures. The school has confirmed that the training is scheduled for completion on 20 August and that appropriate evidence will be sent to the Department for Education (DfE) to ensure that the requirements are met fully.

The school's three-year plan to improve access meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Staff appointed are appropriately vetted. Clear documentation is held to confirm this process including for all members of the governing body. As the school site was not available at the time of the inspection, the single central register that captures this information is being held by PKF, the Lot 1 project management company helping to deliver this element of recruitment. As staff teaching commitments are comparatively favourable the school does not intend to employ supply staff for the foreseeable future. Although the requirements for checks on supply staff are not applicable, appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations should the need arise. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Although the site was not available for inspection, plans indicate that the school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. The school is to be located in temporary premises currently being completed on the site of the permanent building. The temporary building includes suitable numbers of classrooms and a specialist room for the initial intake. In addition, careful consideration has been given to providing a multi-use assembly hall along with an appropriate number of washrooms and toilets for students and staff. It is planned that the permanent accommodation will be reconfigured and refurbished and additional sections built on site to provide

suitable accommodation to house the proposed intake of up to 700 students. Work on the refurbishment of the premises is likely to be completed ahead of the proposed opening date in September. The department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the agencies involved.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. The school website already provides all the required information including the school prospectus. It has a parent area and information about staff and governors. The school has recently appointed a software provider to develop its website further, enabling parents and carers to access additional details about all the school's policies and other relevant information. The school calendar has already scheduled the provision of reports to parents and carers on their children's progress.

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.**

Recommended number of day pupils:	100 in the temporary premises
Recommended age range:	11–18 years
Recommended gender of pupils:	Mixed