

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	All Saints Junior School
DfE registration number	Not yet allocated
Unique reference number (URN)	Not yet allocated
Inspection number	384778
Inspection dates	16 September 2011
Reporting inspector	Mike Burghart

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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Context of the school

All Saints Junior School plans to open initially in the hall of All Saints Church in a quiet suburb of Reading. Modifications to the building, to make it fit for purpose, are nearing completion. There are 17 pupils registered to go on roll for September 2011, 2 boys and 15 girls, all aged 7 to 8. As a single Year 3 class this will be the basis of a one-form entry junior school which will grow over a four-year period. Although the school is associated with the church, and in the first year pupils will be taught there, it will have no religious affiliation. Considerable restructuring of premises nearby is in the advanced planning stage and this, once completed, will allow space for up to 120 pupils. The timeline for this project shows that facilities are likely to be ready for September 2012. Contingency plans are in place to account for any delay.

The proportion of pupils with special educational needs has yet to be established, but is likely to be well below average. School policy is that it is open to anyone regardless of need. No pupil speaks English as an additional language and the proportion of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is well below average.

The school is supported by a non-profit-making charitable company that has considerable experience in project managing the setting up and establishing of new schools. An experienced headteacher has been appointed and for the first year will be non teaching. She is to be supported by a class teacher and a soon-to-be-appointed teaching assistant.

The school aims to encourage pupils to grow up as sensible young people who will achieve their potential and make a worthwhile contribution to society.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, supported by the school's stated aims and objectives and a curriculum designed to provide pupils with a wide range of opportunities. There is a clear commitment to fostering pupils' personal development. Pupils will be encouraged to act responsibly and show respect for other people, resources and accommodation. Planning takes into account the need to promote pupils' self-esteem, confidence and independence as ways of underpinning learning. There is careful consideration of how opportunities will be created for pupils to become aware of different faiths, customs and lifestyles that go to make up United Kingdom society and to develop an understanding of public institutions and services.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all welfare, health and safety regulations. The implementation of policies and procedures could not be seen as the school is not yet

operating. However, there is a well-prepared and comprehensive raft of policies which has been successfully tried and tested by the management company in similar situations elsewhere. Policies are securely based on national guidance. There is a consistent approach and close links between aims, objectives and procedures, for example in policies for anti-bullying, behaviour, child protection and the safe recruitment of staff. Details of how pupils and staff will be kept safe are clearly presented. A member of staff is appropriately trained to act as the school's child protection officer. She is to undergo timely update training in September. Training for all adults involved is set to form part of the induction process prior to the school's opening date. Arrangements for first aid are in order.

With appropriate policies and procedures already in place, the school is well placed to assess and manage safety risks. These include consideration of off-site activities and health and safety, with pupils' well-being as the overriding priority. The ways in which the school will promote good conduct and behaviour are well documented, with policies giving good guidance to staff. These include how sanctions and rewards are to be used to reinforce positive values and attitudes.

Premises have been adapted to provide equality of access for those with physical disabilities and meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. A formal review of fire safety is scheduled for the time when building alterations are complete. The ways people will leave the building in the event of an emergency are documented and arrangements are in hand for this information to be communicated accordingly.

Policies and procedures for admissions, to record attendance and follow up absence are in place and an inspection of, as yet empty, registers indicates that systems are suitable.

The school is likely to meet all the regulations.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

A safe recruitment policy has been agreed and reviewed. Appointments have been made following set procedures and the process meets current guidance. All adults working with pupils will be appropriately checked, including temporary staff. A single central register has been established and steps are in hand to carry out checks on all members of the managing body and volunteer helpers.

The school's procedures are likely to meet all requirements.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

At the time of this visit building work to modify church premises was almost complete. It is apparent that it will be finished in time for the start of term and that toilets, heating, ventilation, floor covering, lighting and décor are likely to meet regulations. The church room is a suitable size to act as the classroom for the number of pupils on roll and will be in a good state of repair and decoration. Pupils will have the use of a large hall for physical education. Furnishings and equipment,

for example to support information and communication technology, are on order and will be ready for the school's opening. A safe and secure outdoor space for play has been created and arrangements for physical education on a wider scale have been made using a local swimming pool and recreation ground. Access and toilet facilities have been created for those with disabilities.

Building work to modify the premises nearby, which will be needed in a year's time when the school begins to grow to capacity, have been instigated. The project manager can demonstrate that work is on track to be ready for September 2012.

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The implementation of the risk assessments identified in school policy could not be seen as the school is not yet operating.

Provision of information

Plans are in hand to develop the existing school website and circulate a prospectus to provide information as required. Parents, carers and the general public already have access to school policies and procedures. The school plans to keep parents and carers informed of pupils' progress, both academic and in terms of personal development, formally with an annual written report in the summer term, three consultation meetings a year, and on a day-to-day basis as a result of its open door policy.

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

Notwithstanding that the school has yet to open, and there have been no formal complaints, its complaints policy meets requirements.

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 is recommended for registration.

For number of day pupils: 120 (17 for September 2011)

For age range: 7–11 years

For gender of pupils: Mixed.

Note to the Department

The school will be opening in temporary accommodation which is sufficient for the first intake of one class. The Department is advised to arrange for the permanent accommodation to be inspected once the refurbishment of the new premises has been completed to assess its suitability for the number of pupils sought (120).