

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

School name	Canary Wharf College
DfE registration number	Not yet allocated
Unique reference number (URN)	1109
Inspection number	384779
Inspection dates	4 August 2011
Reporting inspector	Chris Kessell

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Context of the school

Canary Wharf College is planning to open as a mixed two-form entry primary school with provision for a 40-place Reception year. The school plans to open early in September starting with single Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes and to build up to 280 pupils. Its future intake will be phased to match the development of the school site over the next few years. The principal, four full-time teachers and four teaching assistants have been appointed to start in September. The school serves a residential area in the centre of the Isle of Dogs near to Mudshute Station. It will be sited in a renovated Edwardian building that used to be part of the Docklands Settlements Centre.

The school aims to offer a broad curriculum that will produce high academic achievement and a strong emphasis on pupils' personal development. There will be a significant focus on mathematics, technology and science. Pupils will be taught a modern foreign language and receive three hours of physical education per week. The average class size will have 20 pupils.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met. Although the school is not aligned to any specific denomination, it will have a strong Christian ethos and environment. Respect and understanding for the diversity, traditions and culture of the local community and wider British society will be taught through the implementation of the planned curriculum. The school's aim of 'to live, share and celebrate the love of learning' will be emphasised as pupils are encouraged to develop their enthusiasm and curiosity of the wider world and respect for others from different faiths and backgrounds. The pupils' spiritual development will have a strong focus alongside their academic, social and personal development. Planned provision indicates that appropriate emphasis will be placed on promoting pupils' self-esteem and self-confidence and challenging potential issues such as discrimination and bullying. The citizenship programme will introduce pupils to a range of local and national institutions.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all regulations. The implementation of policies and procedures could not be seen as the school has not yet opened. Arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils comply with current guidance. The safeguarding of pupils and the promotion of their welfare is regarded as a priority by the school. Safeguarding policies and procedures meet requirements including identified dates for annual reviews. The principal is the designated child protection officer and has been appropriately trained. All staff will be trained in child protection and first aid before the school opens.

The school has a comprehensive policy to promote pupils' good behaviour that includes the sanctions to be adopted in the event of pupils misbehaving. Clear guidance on the incentives and reinforcement of good behaviour is also included. The school's anti-bullying policy links appropriately with the school's behaviour policy. There are effective procedures for ensuring pupils' health and safety on educational visits and measures to assess and manage safety risks around the school site. Systems are in place so that the school can operate admission and attendance registers but, currently, these are blank. Staff deployment has been planned so that all pupils are supervised properly. Evacuation procedures in the case of fire have been considered and the necessary fire safety checks will be undertaken as soon as the building is ready for the school. The premises and plans to improve access will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Procedures for safe recruitment and checking of staff are in place. There is a single central record that contains all the required checks on the principal and staff. The necessary checks have either been completed or applied for. This also applies to members of the directorial board. The school will not directly employ supply staff. Systems are in place to ensure that agency staff have undertaken all of the required checks and that supply staff are suitable for the work required. The school's policies and procedures are likely to meet all requirements.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Architects' plans, a meeting with the project manager and a site visit indicate that the premises are likely to meet regulations in time for the proposed school opening at the beginning of September. Although building work is still being undertaken, requirements related to heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor covering are likely to be fulfilled. Classrooms are of appropriate size to allow effective teaching and include specialist facilities for science and technology. Washrooms are planned to meet requirements. A separate medical room will be included when the site is enlarged at the end of the first academic year. Arrangements for September include the use of a spare classroom with a washbasin and are adequate. Sick or injured pupils will be able to lie down quietly and privately with access to a nearby toilet. There will be sufficient space for all pupils to play and meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. There will be no pupils on roll who have mobility problems or disabilities, but plans are in place to develop access.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

The school has a temporary website but provides all the required up-to-date information, as does the prospectus. All school policies are readily available for parents and carers. An annual written report of the progress and attainment of each pupil will be provided to parents and carers.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

The school meets all of the regulations with regards the procedures for handling complaints. As the school has not yet opened, there have been no formal complaints.

Recommendation to the Department for Education Registration

Is registration recommended?

YES. The school is likely to meet all regulations and is recommended for registration.

For number of day pupils: 280

For age range: 4–11

For gender of pupils: Mixed