

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

School name	Eden Primary School
DfE registration number	Not yet assigned
Unique reference number (URN)	1084
Inspection number	384318
Inspection dates	11 August 2011
Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher

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Context of the school

Eden Primary School plans to open in September 2011 as a mixed, inclusive primary school created under the Free Schools Programme, sponsored by the Eden Primary Trust. It will be a one-form entry school with a cross-communal Jewish ethos that accepts children from across the spectrum of Jewish belief and beyond on an equal basis.

It is sited in a residential area of Haringey and will provide for pupils from the surrounding neighbourhood. The plans for the new school building are awaiting permission from the local authority council, so that, currently, the school is based in temporary accommodation next door to the future site, in a wing of a large secondary school. This wing is being refurbished to accommodate 30 Reception-aged boys and girls.

The headteacher, an administrator, a part-time deputy, a class teacher and teaching assistant have already been appointed to start in September.

In discussion with the headteacher, the inspector advised that when the new premises are ready, the school can apply for a material change visit.

The school has a mission statement that 'values academic excellence achieved through an innovative curriculum incorporating both Jewish and general studies with high expectations of achievement for all children'. Reception children will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum with an integrated Jewish studies programme.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to satisfactory implementation, through the planned curriculum. The intended ethos of the school emphasises the pupils' personal development, particularly through the enriched, integrated curriculum which focuses on building a learning community and on nature and the environment. The planned provision clearly emphasises the development of the pupils' confidence, self-knowledge and their understanding of taking responsibility for their behaviour and actions. Although the emphasis is on the Jewish faith, because the children come from all faith backgrounds, the annual cycle of celebrations across faith groups is built into the calendar for the new school year so that the children can grow in their awareness of, and respect for, traditions and cultures other than their own. Children of different backgrounds and beliefs will learn from diversity and difference and value one another. Visitors and groups appropriate to the age range are also planned so that pupils can develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All essential policies and procedures have been prepared and comply with current guidance, including that on behaviour and anti-bullying. The safeguarding policy meets requirements and provides clear guidance to staff. All the necessary checks as regards suitability of staff have been made and a satisfactory safe recruitment policy is in place. The headteacher, who is the designated person for child protection, and deputy headteacher, have signed up for the appropriate safeguarding training with the local safeguarding board. Safeguarding training for all staff and adults on the site is part of the induction process prior to the school opening date. The newly appointed staff team includes a qualified paediatric first aider.

The school has devised detailed and suitable procedures to assess and manage safety risks around the school site. There are written policies to promote good behaviour with clear codes of conduct and an appropriate set of sanctions and rewards. The health and safety policy is in line with requirements and has been drawn up with the welfare of the children at its heart. Currently, the admission and attendance registers are blank but are likely to meet requirements. The premises are being adapted to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Arrangements are in hand for the necessary fire safety checks when the refurbishment is deemed ready for the school. Evacuation procedures in the case of fire have been carefully considered.

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The implementation of policies and procedures could not be seen as the school is not operating.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's policies and procedures are likely to meet all requirements. Recruitment procedures meet the current guidance. All appointed staff are appropriately vetted and there is a single central record that contains all the required checks on the headteacher and staff. Members of the directorial board already have the necessary checks. The school will not employ supply staff. The systems are in place for volunteers, and other groups, to be checked in time for the opening of the school and the outcomes recorded on the single central record.

Premises and accommodation at the school

The refurbishment work is still underway for these temporary premises, but the architect's plans and models, as well as the site visit, confirm that the premises are on track to meet almost all of the regulations in time for the proposed school opening. The section of the building needed for September is likely to meet the regulations for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor covering. The classroom is of a good size, with a small group room and two offices. There are washrooms for the adults and suitable washrooms for the 30 children in the area. There is a disabled toilet close by. Play areas have been carefully considered and surfaces matched to the needs of young children both for free and guided play.

Appropriate furniture and fittings are on order. Access is already in place for those with disabilities. There is no medical room available or planned in this temporary accommodation, and the school is not likely to meet this regulation in the present setting. However, clear plans are in place to provide appropriate care for children who become unwell in school.

Provision of information

The school website and prospectus provide the required information. All policies are readily available to prospective parents on the website. Termly reports to parents on the achievement of pupils are already part of the planned school year.

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school's complaints policy meets the regulations. As the school has not yet opened, there have been no formal complaints.

Recommendation to the Department for Education Registration

Is registration recommended?

YES: This school is likely to meet all regulations except one and is recommended for registration. The school should be encouraged to implement its plan to make temporary arrangements for pupils who may become ill and to ensure that full provision is made in the new building.

For number of day pupils: 30

For age range: 4 to 5 years

For gender of pupils: Mixed.