

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of free school

School name	Kings Science Academy
DfE registration number	999/1118
Unique reference number (URN)	1118
Inspection number	384784
Inspection dates	22 August 2011
Reporting inspector	David Young

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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

Kings Science Academy is located in Bradford West and is sponsored by the KIFSA Trust. It is to be a non-denominational, non-selective school catering for boys and girls in the age range 11 to 16 years, specialising in sciences. It proposes to open on 5 September 2011 with an intake of 140 students into Year 7 and to expand to an ultimate intake of 800 students. A site has been provided by a philanthropist from a textile milling background and plans are in place to build new premises to be completed by September 2012. In its first year the school will be located on the second floor of the site of a previous independent school which is currently being refurbished.

The stated vision of the school is 'that education is not just about academic learning but also about developing excellent character. Excellent character results in inner peace and social harmony, and is essential for students' personal and professional success'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations in this standard are met by the planning but implementation could not be checked. The academy's motto is 'Character and Knowledge'. The ethos and vision is based on five strands, of which the first is 'character and citizenship'. The five strands are built into every subject scheme of work. A 'character handbook' has been produced for students which emphasises the importance of self-awareness. Critical thinking is planned into the timetable with an emphasis on intellectual integrity, supporting students to face up to and acknowledge truths about themselves. Humanity and justice are important themes included in the personal, social and health education (PSHE) and religious studies (RS) programmes. These programmes promote the importance of leadership, leading to students taking initiative to improve their communities. Extra-curricular activities include a 'model United Nations'; 'Global Citizenship community initiatives'; and 'Conflict Resolution'. The character handbook urges students to learn about Britain's democratic political structures. It also stresses the importance of respect and open-mindedness. The RS programme includes Islam as a key religion; the majority of students will be from a Muslim background. The RS programme also includes the study of Christianity and of Buddhism. The policy for students' personal development emphasises the importance of embedding each strand through the issues and concepts of the curriculum, together with the creation of an academy community through its values and procedures.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The academy's planning meets all regulatory requirements in this standard although implementation could not be seen. An appropriate range of welfare and safety policies has been produced which meets all the requirements. Child protection

training for the designated person, the vice principal, was completed in February 2011. Staff child protection training is written into the academy programme for the induction of staff. The first aid policy is suitable and is included in the health and safety policy. Separate first aid guidance for staff is in the process of production so that regulations will be met. An appropriate number of staff have up-to-date training in first aid. Suitable safe recruitment procedures are built into the safeguarding policy and have been implemented correctly in the appointment of staff. A commercial database has been purchased to include registers for registration and admissions. An appropriate access improvement plan is being developed as part of the refurbishment programme to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The planning for safe recruitment and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Checks on the suitability of staff have been completed and all existing governors have had a criminal records bureau check completed by the DfE. A suitable single central register has been constructed and details of all required staff checks are being entered as received by the academy.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. The new build, planned for completion in 2012 is in the planning stage; the appointment of a construction company is in the final stage of process. The current temporary accommodation, due to be used for one year from September 2012, is in the process of extensive refurbishment. It is likely that the refurbishment programme will be completed to a standard suitable for opening the school by the proposed date so that the regulations will be met. The premises will provide adequate space for teaching and all required facilities, including the required outside play space, in a safe and secure environment. Continuous feedback on the progress with the refurbishment will be provided by the Department's delivery agent, 'Partnership for Schools'.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

YES

For number of day pupils: 140 in current premises, 800 when building is complete

For number of boarders: n/a

For age range: 11–16 years

For gender of pupils: Mixed