

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

School name	Krishna-Avanti Primary School
DfE registration number	999/1112
Unique reference number (URN)	1112
Inspection number	384783
Inspection dates	8 August 2011
Reporting inspector	David Young

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Context of the school

The proposed Krishna-Avanti Primary School is a Free School located at Evington Hall, Leicester, the site of a former independent grammar school. The school is sponsored by the I-Foundation, which also operates a voluntary aided school in London, and is due to open on 1 September 2011. The school is in receipt of government funding to refurbish and partly rebuild the existing accommodation through a phased programme of works. It is due to open with an intake of approximately 40 four-year-old boys and girls into two Reception classes. It is planned to develop into a school for up to 420 pupils in the age range four to 11 years.

The school aims to 'help children realise their spiritual, moral and academic potential in a welcoming, secure and supportive environment centred on loving service to Lord Krishna. The school will enable pupils to enjoy learning, develop character and competence, and prepare for secondary education and the responsibilities of adult life in contemporary Britain'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Planning documentation indicates that all regulations in this standard are likely to be met but implementation could not be checked. The school's approach to the personal development of pupils is evident in its ethos and vision statement; the policies for religious education (RE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE); and proposed arrangements for collective worship. Six ideals are set out in the school's vision statement, including character formation, wholesome sense of identity and social and community cohesion. The RE programme states that its rationale is 'for each child to reflect on their own beliefs and practices as well as to respect other religions and beliefs of others. It places an emphasis on Hinduism while also promoting multi-faith religious education, learning from religion. The RE programme aims to encourage each child to live harmoniously in today's culturally plural societies. The PSHE curriculum, together with citizenship for relevant age groups, follows the National Curriculum guidance for Key Stages 1 and 2 and is underpinned by the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The collective worship policy refers to plans for visits and visitors, links with faith partners in the UK and worldwide, and links with the local community and with local schools.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The academy's planning meets all regulatory requirements in this standard although implementation could not be seen. Policies for safeguarding, child protection, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and educational visits procedures, illustrate the school's commitment to the welfare of pupils. The school's safeguarding procedures are in line with the requirements of the Local Safeguarding Children

Board (LSCB). The policy and procedures identify appropriate requirements with regard to the role of the designated person, training for all staff, the relationship with the LSCB, and procedures for managing allegations against staff. One member of staff has been trained to take on the role of designated person and training is planned for all staff immediately prior to the school opening. The recruitment policy sets out appropriate procedures, including all the required suitability checks for staff, supply staff, volunteers and governors. There is an appropriate health and safety policy in place and a generic template for a range of risk assessments. A fire risk assessment has been completed by a commercial company which has also provided a fire manual. Suitable arrangements for fire safety checks and tests are set out in the school's policy. Two members of staff are booked on to a paediatric first aid training course to be completed on 25 August. The local authority has managed applications for admission to the school and the appropriate data is due to be transferred to the school's electronic database which will also record the required attendance registers. The school is aware of its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and is developing its existing accessibility plan as refurbishment and building work proceeds.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Arrangements to ensure the suitability of staff and proprietors meet requirements. A single central register of all the required checks has been compiled and contains all available data to date. Evidence has been provided of applications for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for recently appointed staff. Appropriate procedures are in place for the employment of supply staff should these be required.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. The premises consist of extensive buildings with Evington Hall at their centre. Demolition of parts of the premises and refurbishment of the accommodation due to be used in September 2011 are currently underway. Plans have been viewed for the full accommodation required to house the eventual 420 pupils. Refurbishment of the existing accommodation and proposed new buildings are due for completion by September 2012. The Department may wish to monitor the school's progress with its development of the premises as the planned works proceed.

Those parts of the building due to be used on opening have been viewed. An appropriate timescale has been agreed for completion of refurbishment works to this part of the accommodation. There is adequate teaching space, an assembly hall, suitable toilets and washrooms, a room for pupils who may be ill, and administration and office space. There is adequate external space for play and recreation and to accommodate the learning arrangements for the Reception classes. The planned arrangements for site security and the safety of pupils during the first year of operation are appropriate, including appropriate arrangements for the separation of the school accommodation from the ongoing building works.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The procedures meet all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

YES

For number of day pupils: 420

For number of boarders: n/a

For age range: 4–11 years

For gender of pupils: Mixed

The Department may wish to monitor the school's progress with its development of the premises as the planned works proceed and the roll increases from the initial 40 to eventual 420 pupils.