

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

School name	Katherine Warrington School
DfE registration number	919/4030
Unique reference number (URN)	145890
Inspection number	10103232
Inspection dates	16/05/2019 to 16/05/2019
Reporting inspector	Kim Pigram



Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.²

The inspector met with the headteacher and the project manager. The inspector held telephone conversations with the executive headteacher and chair of the trust. The inspector reviewed a range of policies, including those related to safeguarding and the school's proposed website. The inspector visited the site where the school is being built and reviewed building plans with school leaders and contractors. She also visited the law building at the University of Hertfordshire. These are the premises that the school will be using from when the school opens until 19 September 2019.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1150. Initially 180 in September 2019
Age range	11–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The new school proposes to be a secondary school with sixth form. It is anticipated that the first cohort of pupils will be admitted to Year 7 in September 2019.

The proposed school is led by Harpenden Secondary Education Trust. This trust is a partnership of three local secondary schools, Roundwood Park School, Sir John Laws School and St George's School, alongside the University of Hertfordshire and Rothamsted Research.

New school premises are currently being built. The school's sports centre, which will act as the temporary premises for this first cohort of pupils, is anticipated to be ready for use by 19 September 2019. The school is proposing to use the law building at the University of Hertfordshire from the start of September until the school's

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99.

² www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made. Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

sports centre is ready. Pupils will then transfer to the school’s re-purposed sports centre building.

The main school building is due to be fully completed in time for September 2020, in time for a second cohort of pupils into Year 7.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens, provided that it addresses the regulations noted in the tables set out in parts 3, 5 and 8.
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Explanation of inspector's recommendations where they differ from the school's application:

- In the absence of agreed plans for the temporary use of the building at the University of Hertfordshire, it is not possible to evaluate if the school is likely to meet the requirements in the initial part of the autumn term in September 2019.
- On the proviso that the main school buildings are completed according to the planned timescale and to the required standard, there is likely to be sufficient capacity for 1150 pupils, including the sixth form. This recommendation is aligned to leaders’ expectations.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. School leaders have written policies which detail how the school intends to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, most notably through the school's ethos of 'knowledge, well-being and success'. There is clear evidence that the school intends to promote values such as the rule of law, respect for public institutions, appreciation of different cultures and democracy. Additionally, the school's policies actively demonstrate promotion of respect for people with protected characteristics.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet standards in this part providing that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The behaviour policy sets out the school's approach to rewards and sanctions or 'consequences', that will be used to promote pupils' good behaviour. This policy links closely with other policies, such as safeguarding and anti-bullying.

The safeguarding policy is comprehensive and outlines the procedures that the school will undertake to safeguard pupils. However, there are intermittent references to legal documents that pre-date the most up-to-date 2018 guidance.

There is a comprehensive risk assessment policy. Leaders have invested in purchasing the local authority online risk assessment system tool to ensure the quality and consistency of risk assessment processes.

Leaders only recently confirmed the need for temporary premises to cover the initial two weeks of the autumn term 2019. These premises provide high-quality learning environments. However, leaders understand and acknowledge that the premises pose some challenges that they have yet to address through their risk assessment process and protocols, such as pupils' safe access to outside space at breaktimes.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure that the safeguarding policy consistently makes due reference to the most up-to-date 2018 guidance from the Secretary of State.	Paragraphs 7, 7(b)
Implement the risk assessment policy more effectively by ensuring that there are written risk assessments and protocols to reduce the risks presented by the temporary use of the law court building at the University of Hertfordshire in September 2019.	Paragraphs 16, 16(a) and 16(b)

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet the regulations in this part. The single central record is already in place. Leaders have a thorough understanding about the checks that they are required to make on staff suitability to work with children. All of these checks are recorded on the school's single central record appropriately.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part, providing it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

Leaders and contractors provided detailed plans about the proposed layouts for both the sports centre and the main school site. Building is underway, with the sports centre due for completion on 19 September 2019. These plans are being routinely shared with the Department for Education. There is clear evidence in these plans about how leaders intend to ensure that they are fully compliant with regulations, regarding drinking water, toileting, first-aid and medical facilities, outdoor space and physical education.

However, leaders have not yet secured the same level of detail about how they intend to use the premises temporarily at the University of Hertfordshire, especially about how they are going to ensure that pupils have access to appropriate medical accommodation and outdoor space at break and lunchtime.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure that suitable accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils is provided in the temporary accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire.	Paragraphs 24, 24(1)(a), 24(1)(b),
Ensure that clear protocols are established for the use of the temporary accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire so that all reasonable precautions are taken to assure the safety and welfare of pupils when accessing the site and outdoor spaces.	Paragraph 25
Ensure that protocols are established for pupils' temporary use of the outdoor areas at the University of Hertfordshire, most notably during breaks and lunchtime.	Paragraphs 29, 29(1)(b)

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part. All required policies are in place and available to parents upon request. The school's current website contains information related to the potential opening of the school. However, leaders have already created a website ready to go live upon registration which contains these policies and the relevant information.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet the regulations in this part. The complaints policy is clear and well written. The procedures, timescales, composition of the panel and steps towards resolutions are clear for complaints. The opportunity to address complaints initially on an informal basis is also made clear in the policy.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in this part, providing it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The trust has secured appropriate and wide-ranging expertise into its membership, including experienced leaders of local secondary schools. Trustees have recruited leaders and staff, including the headteacher and a temporary project manager, to ensure that they have a good understanding of the regulations. The trust has also invested in the role of an executive headteacher to continue to support the headteacher and leaders for the first year of the school's opening. Plans for the school's continued growth are well thought out.

The school is working positively and pro-actively with the local community, prospective parents and the local authority to consult and collaborate with stakeholders in the area. Leaders actively celebrate that the proposed school is one very much embracing the local community. For example, leaders created a competition between local primary-aged pupils to find the new name for the proposed school. Consequently, the school is named after a past local female scientist.

The issues that need addressing are with regard the temporary use of accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire, which has only recently been confirmed. Leaders exhibit a very strong understanding about what they need to do to secure the regulations on this site.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Ensure that regulations in the preceding parts are likely to be met as well in the temporary accommodation at the University of Hertfordshire, as well as they are likely to be met on the bespoke school site.	Paragraphs 34, 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b), 34(1)(c), 34(2)
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Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The school's policies on equality and special educational needs and/or disabilities directly identify how pupils will be supported to access curriculum, learning and opportunities. An accessibility plan is also in place. This plan is being routinely reviewed by leaders. Plans for both the temporary and permanent buildings show features such as adaptations and lifts that will be in place.

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