

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	William Morris Primary School
DfE registration number	866/2022
Unique reference number (URN)	147093
Inspection number	10103251
Inspection dates	10/07/2019
Reporting inspector	Stephen McShane HMI



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 undertook a tour of the school site and reviewed the architects' plans for the building. He met with the chief executive officer of the Blue Kite Trust, the executive headteacher of William Morris, and the site and business managers. He scrutinised school policies and information available on the school website and the information the school had submitted to the Department for Education.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as an academy for:

Number of day pupils	420 + 48 place nursery
Age range	3–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	N/A

Context of the school

William Morris will be fourth school of the Blue Kite Trust, Swindon. It is located in a new housing development, Tadpole Garden Village.

The school is currently being built. It was scheduled to be completed in time for the academic year 2019/2020 and open with nursery and reception classes. However, there was delay in the supply of some building materials and this has delayed work. A substantial part of the building will be completed by the end of August 2019. The school intends to open in this part of the building. Currently the school has applications from five Nursery-aged children and 20 reception-aged children. The work on the building will continue, and it is anticipated that the building will now be completed by November 2019.

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.

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
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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 relation to this part. The school's policies describe how pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) will be assured. SMSC is woven through the curriculum. It is an integral part of the already planned assembly programme. Circle time, a positive approach to the management of behaviour, as well as adopting a 'growth mindset', are all referred to. It is intended that the school will adopt 14 core values that it will work through over a period of two years. The collective worship policy describes a broadly Christian approach but acknowledges and covers other beliefs. Within the broad and balanced curriculum it is planned that pupils will have opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork skills and self-reliance, as well as a sense of enjoyment.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all relevant regulations. Policies are in place, building on the good practice of the trust and its existing schools. These include health and safety, behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid, and safeguarding. There are clear roles and responsibilities for individuals described in the policies. The site manager has a detailed knowledge and is very clear about his schedule of works to ensure compliance. There are clear risk assessments in place and the school is aware of the need to amend these when the building is opened. The executive headteacher is enrolled on appropriate first-aid training. The school has taken good steps to ensure that there will be appropriate staff trained on site at all times.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all regulations. The single central record is already in place. It is based on the single central record of the trust's current schools, which meet requirements. It details the required checks, by whom and when made, and when these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors, volunteers and contracted staff. The process of recruitment to posts for William Morris has been rigorous.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The permanent building is well advanced. It has been designed according to a model that Swindon local authority has used successfully for a number of other schools. This model adheres to national guidance. The school has appropriate outside spaces.

While the building is being completed the school will use the part of the building that is due to be finished by the end of August 2019. This will be fully serviced with, for example, more than required classroom space, toilet facilities and office space. The multi-academy trust, with the contractor, has appropriate plans in place to ensure the safety of pupils while the building is completed. There will be separate entrances for the pupils and for the building site. There will be substantial fences to divide pupils from the site. Even though there should be no contact, all building site staff are DBS-checked and are trained in the company's expectations about behaviour.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all requirements. All the required policies are in place and available. The website is already being used by parents and staff.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive. It contains all necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust has a track record of running successful schools. The newly appointed executive headteacher is experienced. She will be line managed by the CEO, an experienced school leader. There is a very clear scheme of delegation in place. The roles of the different individuals and groups are very clear, including the local governing body. There are clear systems and experienced staff in place to ensure pupils are kept safe. It is planned that there will be a joint governing body for William Morris and Bradbury Park school (another school that the trust is opening). It is intended that working together in this way will strengthen the knowledge and skills of individual members before the governing bodies split in the future.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. It is clear from the school's policies that the achievement of all pupils is a priority. The school describes how it will tackle discrimination and ensure there is accessibility in curriculum, information and accommodation.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will initially open a Reception and Nursery class. Staff appointed are suitably qualified and experienced. Policies are in place that detail specific approaches to the curriculum or connect well with whole-school policies and meet current requirements.

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