

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a 16 to 19 free school

School name	Beauchamp City Sixth Form
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	856/4011
Unique reference number (URN)	147837
Inspection number	10148476
Inspection dates	30/06/2020 to 02/07/2020
Reporting inspector	Deirdre Duignan HMI



Information about the inspection

This inspection was carried out 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 inspection was carried out during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. As a result, we could not visit the school site or meet with the proposer in person. The inspector held telephone discussions with the principal and vice principal of the proposed school. She also spoke with the chair of trustees and with the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Lionheart Academies Trust, who is also the proposer. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the school site, reviewed the architects' plans for the site, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. Using the available information, the inspector is able to give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a 16 to 19 free school for:

Number of day pupils	1,100
Age range	16 to 19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The new provision is a 16 to 19 free school in the Lionheart Academies Trust. The school is located in Leicester city centre but will offer places to pupils from across the city. It is envisaged that the new school will meet a growth in the demand for post-16 education rising from an increase in the population of 16 to 19 year olds in the city. The school will work closely with other schools in the trust to develop teaching and leadership through sharing good practice.

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.

The school proposes to open in August 2020. Initially, the school will have 350 students on roll, rising to 500 in the second year of opening.

The school is situated in a former office block. Adaptations to the building are ongoing. However, leaders are confident that the project is on track to allow the school to open in time for the autumn term.

The school will serve students from diverse communities. Leaders have encouraged applications from disadvantaged students in particular. Leaders intend that the school will offer an ambitious, academic curriculum that will enable students to progress to university or high-quality apprenticeships.

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 proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations in relation to this part. The trust's values of resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity inform many aspects of the school's work. These values will encourage students to develop positive attitudes to their learning and to take responsibility for their behaviour. Leaders have plans in place to ensure that students are exposed to a wide range of views and are taught about the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The planned personal development programme shows how pupils will be taught about a range of religions and cultures. The 'Beauchamp bacculaureate' will encourage and reward students' contributions to the local community and to society more widely.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have put appropriate processes in place to ensure that safeguarding is effective. There are suitable checks and balances, at school and trust level, to ensure that incidents are not missed and are followed up. Leaders have a good understanding of the local context and have begun to think about the particular issues they may face when students start at the school. Senior leaders plan to meet every student in the first two weeks of term. This will enable them to identify any students who do need additional support. There are detailed policies in place for all other aspects of welfare, health and safety. Leaders have drawn up plans to implement these policies effectively, for example by ensuring that staff receive appropriate training. Leaders have thought carefully about how to ensure the safety of students when they leave the school site, and before all parts of the building are fully in use.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations in this part. The school's recruitment policy sets out the checks that need to be in place for all staff, including supply staff. The school's single central register shows that leaders have carried out and recorded all the necessary checks.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations in this part. The school provides spacious and well-designed accommodation throughout, with a range of teaching spaces, therapy and one-to-one rooms, and a large area for private study. The teaching rooms are well sized with adequate ventilation and lighting. The building has been carefully designed to ensure that it is accessible to disabled students and staff. There are more than adequate toilets available on each

floor for males and females, including disabled toilets. The medical room is close to a toilet and the school has a separate hygiene room. Although there is no outdoor space, leaders have identified a local green area that students can use in their recreation time.

Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations in this part. All of the necessary policies are in place. The school's website contains all of the relevant information for parents and prospective students.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. The complaints policy sets out the procedure to be followed in response to any complaints. The policy is published on the school's website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. Leaders have a clear vision, which is rooted in promoting social mobility and providing equality of opportunity to disadvantaged and under-represented groups. They are realistic about the challenges they may face as they seek to make their vision a reality. They have worked effectively with other leaders to find common solutions to the issues facing them currently. The chair of trustees uses her skills and expertise as a national leader of governance to develop effective governance. The very clear documentation and processes that are in place will help governors understand and carry out their duties effectively.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet the regulations in this part. The school building has been carefully designed to meet the needs of users with a range of disabilities. School policies include reference to the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

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