

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

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School name	Harry Watts Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	394/7003
Unique reference number (URN)	147841
Inspection number	10148487
Inspection dates	17/06/2020 to 23/06/2020
Reporting inspector	Cindy Impey



## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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 reviewed photographs as well as videos of the new site. The building work has not been completed. The inspector reviewed a range of policies and procedures provided by the proposer and scrutinised information available on the school's website. The inspector held telephone discussions with the headteacher and a senior leader. Video conference calls were held with the chief executive of the multi-academy trust, a member of the board of trustees and the chair of the local governing body. Using the available information, the inspector can give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards. However, the degree of assurance is limited for some of the standards. The standards for which assurance is limited are indicated in the relevant section for that part.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	96 (36 on opening)
<b>Age range</b>	5 to 16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Specialist autism

## Context of the school

Harry Watts Academy is a new school within the Prosper Learning Trust.

Harry Watts Academy will be a specialist autism school providing education for up to 96 pupils aged 5 to 16. It is due to open in September 2020 with up to 36 pupils in school during the first year. The school will have 96 pupils when full.

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99).

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made](http://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.

There will be a phased placement of pupils, reaching full capacity in the third year.

As the proposed school building is not yet complete, the school will be temporarily located on Fir Tree Avenue, Harraton. The premises are due to be completed by September 2020.

## **Advice to the Secretary of State for Education**

<b>Overall outcome</b>	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 this part. Evidence provided demonstrates that leaders have a strong understanding of the needs for their pupils. The social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) policy connects well with other relevant policies, such as the personal, social, health and economic policy, staff code of conduct and the behaviour policy. Leaders' intentions for promoting aspects of SMSC across the curriculum are clear. Leaders have closely considered the context of their school community for the teaching of British values. They can demonstrate well how these, along with the trust's core values, will be central to pupils' learning. Provision in this aspect is likely to be strong if policies are implemented as planned.

### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The available evidence indicates that the proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations. However, neither the proposed new building nor the temporary accommodation has been completed. Therefore, while there is a fire risk assessment process within the health and safety policy, there is not a separate fire risk assessment for either site. This and evacuation procedures are to be reviewed by leaders on completion of the buildings. Leaders set high expectations of behaviour for staff and pupils. They are ensuring that systems are in place to monitor and assess pupils' learning and well-being so that they can fully support pupils' individual needs. Policies in place indicate that aspects such as first aid, supervision, risk assessment and safeguarding are likely to be secure and comply with guidance.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. Leaders' policies and procedures for checking the suitability of all adults at the school are fit for purpose and meet latest guidance. Trustees ensure that all of the expected background checks are carried out and recorded effectively.

### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

Building plans, discussions with leaders and those responsible for managing the new accommodation demonstrate that the temporary building and the new building are likely to be completed in line with the latest building regulations and health, safety and building guidance for special schools. However, the inspector is only able to provide limited assurances about some aspects of the premises, such as the temperature of the water, acoustics and lighting, as it was not possible to visit the site and neither buildings have been completed. Leaders plan for both buildings to meet all of the current requirements, including provision of medical rooms and specialised equipment. Evidence relating to the premises shows provision that is

likely to be accessible for all pupils who will attend the school. The available evidence indicates that the proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations.

### **Part 6. Provision of information**

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. All the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website contains many of the policies with updated information. Copies of these policies can be made available on request.

### **Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled**

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations in this part. The complaints policy is clear and appears on the school's website. It contains all the required steps and the timeline for the efficient handling of any complaints. Leaders have ensured that copies are available for those without access to the internet if requested.

### **Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Discussions with leaders and the supporting documents provided demonstrate that leaders have the necessary experience, knowledge and expertise to lead and manage the proposed school effectively. Leaders are committed to ensuring that pupils are prepared for a positive life experience beyond secondary education. This is reflected in the strong partnerships that exist between the trust, the local authorities, universities and colleges.

### **Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010**

The proposed school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The trust already work with a wide range of external agencies to ensure that pupils in their schools are provided with specialist support to meet a range of needs. Leaders' plans show that they have considered accessibility for all pupils attending. The policy sets out how leaders will take account of views about the school from pupils, staff and parents and how leaders will adapt provision if necessary.

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