

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

School name	Prospect House Specialist Support Primary
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	352/7002
Unique reference number (URN)	147885
Inspection number	10148508
Inspection dates	12/06/2020 to 19/06/2020
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 2008.¹

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 reviewed photographs and carried out a virtual tour of the school site. The school will open on a temporary site of an existing school. 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 assistant headteacher. Video conference calls were held with the chief executive of the multi-academy trust, a member of the board of trustees and 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:

Number of day pupils	25 (17 on opening)
Age range	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)

Context of the school

Prospect House is a primary specialist support school offering places for children with PMLD, SLD and ASD, aged 3–11 years old.

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.

This new provision will be within the Prospere Learning Trust. The school will open in September 2020 for 25 pupils. Seventeen pupils will start in September 2020.

A new school building is due to be completed in 2022. Therefore, the school will be temporarily located on the site of Grange School.

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 the regulations in relation to this part. Developing pupils' social, moral, emotional and cultural understanding is at the core of the school's curriculum and central to leaders' vision. The curriculum gives plenty of opportunities for pupils to discuss and understand topics in relation to themselves and to learn about a wide range of religions and cultures. Leaders' intentions are clear for the teaching and learning of relationships and sex education. Leaders' plans show that they will provide opportunities for pupils to build on their understanding through topics appropriate to pupils' age and ability. Leaders plan for pupils to have opportunities to help develop their confidence and independence through taking on roles such as 'headteacher ambassador' or being a member of the school council. Provision in this aspect is likely to be strong if policies are implemented as planned.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations assessed for this part. Policies are clear and comprehensive. These and other evidence indicate that behaviour, supervision, risk assessment, first aid and safeguarding will be secure and comply with guidance. Leaders' systems for ensuring that policies are implemented effectively and checked routinely are robust.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in this part. The single central register is already in place and meets latest guidance. Appropriate checks on all employees and visitors are carried out and recorded on the system, including for trustees and the local governing body.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

Building plans, virtual tour and discussions with leaders demonstrate that the building is compliant with this part. The temporary site was built under the Building Schools for the Future scheme in 2010. 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. The building meets the current requirements, including, for example, provision of medical rooms and specialised equipment. The available evidence indicates that the proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant regulations.

Part 6. Provision of information

The 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 is up to date with the most recent policies and information. Copies of these policies can be made available on request.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations in this part. The complaints policy is comprehensive and clearly written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints and appears on the school's website. Copies can be made available if requested.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. Leaders already have experience of opening and running special schools. Discussions with leaders demonstrate that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience within the trust at all levels of leadership. Leaders have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements having already fulfilled them successfully. Leadership has established high-quality policies that provide strongly for the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Leadership is also clear about how it will continue to monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

Evidence relating to the premises shows that the provision is accessible for all pupils who will attend the school.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. Staff have been appointed who are suitably qualified and experienced. Policies are in place that link well with other whole-school policies and meet current requirements.

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