

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

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School name	Rosecliffe Spencer Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	891/2041
Unique reference number (URN)	147910
Inspection number	10148510
Inspection dates	21/05/2020 to 29/05/2020
Reporting inspector	Tracy Hannon 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.<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 held telephone discussions with the headteacher (who is also the designated safeguarding lead), representatives of the trust's central team (including the chief executive officer (CEO)) and the chair of the board of trustees. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the school site, reviewed the architect's plans for the permanent 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 free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	315
<b>Age range</b>	4 to 11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

This new provision is a primary school within the Spencer Academies Multi-Academy Trust. It is a presumption project aimed at meeting the needs of a growing population. The school will open with 44 pupils across the primary age range. The main school building is due to be ready for occupation at the start of the spring term of 2021. A temporary building, 'the Learning Village', has been established on the main school site to accommodate pupils from September 2020 until the main building is ready.

<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.

The Spencer Academies Multi-Academy Trust opened two new schools in the last academic year. As a part of the trust, the new primary school will have access to the expertise of staff and leaders. It will also benefit from access to the trust's teaching school, research school and mathematics hub.

## **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 for this part. Leaders have identified a wealth of varied opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their understanding of fundamental British values. Leaders' plans include wide-ranging activities aimed at empowering pupils to be confident and enabling them to contribute to the life of the school.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part.

Leaders have given much consideration to pupils' health and safety when designing the building, planning the curriculum and arranging activities. Policies are already in place and show a suitable level of detail. These and other evidence indicate that appropriate procedures for risk assessments, supervision of pupils, first aid, behaviour and safeguarding will be in place and in line with statutory guidance. Leaders' plans for training staff and maintaining the trust's high expectations are in place. Designated safeguarding leads are experienced and knowledgeable. They are clear about the local safeguarding risks and have plans in place to address these.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the regulations for this part.

Leaders have a comprehensive recruitment policy in place, which shows their intention to adhere to the government's guidance on safer recruitment. The single central register is in place and shows appropriate pre-employment checks have been carried out for all staff appointed to date. Staff who manage recruitment and the single central register are experienced and have secure knowledge of the statutory guidance for safer recruitment. They record checks on the system for staff, trustees and volunteers.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. At the time of the inspection, the construction of the main school building was incomplete. Work on the temporary building is on track to be complete in the next few weeks.

The accommodation has been thoughtfully designed with the needs of primary-aged pupils in mind. Plans show that classrooms have adequate lighting, ventilation and acoustic conditions. Separate toilets have been provided for younger and older pupils, with washing facilities adjacent. The inspector was unable to consider the suitability of the water temperature in these facilities due to the virtual nature of the

inspection. However, trust documentation reflects an awareness of the need for a water temperature that avoids the risk of scalding.

The outdoor space, when complete, will include grassed and hard-surfaced areas for the playing of games, as well as the teaching of physical and environmental education. The premises will provide high-quality facilities that are likely to meet all requirements.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The proposed school's website is in place and all necessary policies are clearly signposted and easily accessible. The contact details for key people in school are available on the website.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet the standards in this part. The complaints procedure clearly sets out the steps a complainant should follow, the timescales for each stage and the information a complainant should expect to receive at the conclusion of each stage.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. Trust leaders and the headteacher have a track record of securing school improvement. Leaders are clear about how they will monitor provision so that the independent school standards are met consistently. They have the necessary expertise to do this.

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

The proposed school is likely to meet all the requirements. The premises have been designed to be fully accessible. The policy for equalities identifies groups and makes provision for positive action where appropriate. It is clear about how to support each group and monitor the impact of that support.

## **Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage**

All statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage are likely to be met. The staff members who will work with the youngest children are suitably experienced and qualified, including in paediatric first aid. The plans for the specific needs of the youngest children are appropriate

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