

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

School name	Stoneham Park Academy
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	850/2060
Unique reference number (URN)	147852
Inspection number	10148521
Inspection dates	07/05/2020 to 18/06/2020
Reporting inspector	Mark Quinn



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. For this reason, the inspector made an assessment of the premises and accommodation set out in part 5 of the independent school standards by means of a virtual tour. The inspector held telephone discussions with the headteacher and the vice-chair of the board of trustees. Using the available information, the inspector is able to give sufficient assurance that the school is likely to meet the independent school standards and, where necessary, what further action is required.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	315 (initially 25 in September 2020)
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

This new provision is a primary free school within the University of Winchester Academy Trust (UWINAT). Stoneham Park Academy will be located in a new, purpose-built facility.

The school will open in September 2020. It will initially admit 25 Reception-aged children. The final capacity of the school will be 315.

UWINAT is liaising with Hampshire local authority to open this free school as a presumption project. It is simultaneously working to open another free school in the area, Barton Farm Primary Academy, as another presumption project. If approved,

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.

these will be the first schools to be opened under this trust since its formation in 2015.

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, provided that it addresses the regulations noted in the tables set out in parts 3, 5 and 8.
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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 relevant standards in this part. The school's prospectus describes the values and culture of the school as 'fostering compassion, empathy and an understanding of others' values and culture'. The school's equality policy makes specific reference to respecting protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. There is a clear document that sets out information about the school's intended approach to promoting fundamental British values. Leaders have a range of policies and schemes of work that are suitable for supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The proposer has produced comprehensive policies to explain the school's intended approach to managing behaviour and bullying. There are detailed policies to manage safeguarding and child protection. These include appropriate procedures for reporting and recording concerns.

Leaders have drawn up a range of suitable policies that should ensure the welfare, health and safety of pupils, including risk assessment, fire safety and first-aid policies. However, it will only be possible to demonstrate the effective implementation of these policies and systems when the current building work is complete.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that the current building work is completed as planned, so that the implementation of the health and safety policy can be assured	paragraph 11
ensure that the current building work is completed as planned, so that the proposer can secure full compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.	paragraph 12

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The proposed school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. There is a template for the single central that complies with guidelines. The school has already begun to add trustees and staff to it. Leaders understand the requirements for checking the details of supply staff and acquiring the appropriate information

from the relevant employment agency. The school’s recruitment policy contains an appropriate range of content. It describes procedures for making the full range of pre-employment checks, including medical fitness.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements assessed in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The proposer has provided detailed plans and documents related to the construction, furnishing and resourcing of the premises. The school is scheduled to take control of the building on 10 July 2020.

Leaders have provided evidence that the acoustic and lighting provision are likely to be suitable. Most electrical lighting, including external lighting, was seen working at the time of the inspection. However, some external lights are still to be fitted. All light fittings serve a dual purpose, operating as emergency lighting if required.

There is enough space outside for the proposed school to provide pupils with opportunities to play and to take part in physical education. However, various ground surfaces are not yet complete.

There is an appropriate water supply for toilets and washing. Leaders gave assurances that the temperature of the water is unlikely to present a scalding risk because there are thermostatic mixing valves installed. However, the inspector was unable to test the temperature of the water because of the restrictions to the inspection process. The intended facilities are likely to be suitable for pupils who will attend if the school opens in September. However, some pupils’ toilet cubicles still await completion. Drinking water is available, but this is not currently labelled.

The building has a room for the short-term care of sick pupils. There will be hot and cold water in this room and there is a nearby toilet. There is no bed in the room, but leaders provided documents to show that they intend to provide one.

The school is likely to ensure that pupils’ health, safety and welfare are catered for once the planned building work is complete, suitable furniture has been provided and effective maintenance of the property can be assured. Some fire protection equipment, such as fire extinguishers and some break-glass call-points, have not yet been installed.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that the building work related to the toilet facilities is completed as planned	paragraphs 23(1), 23(1)(a) and 23(1)(b)
ensure that the intended accommodation for pupils’ medical needs is completed as planned	paragraphs 24(1), 24(1)(a) and 24(1)(b)

ensure that all current building works are completed to enable the proposer to secure pupils' health, safety and welfare through effective maintenance of the premises and provision of suitable fire safety equipment	paragraph 25
ensure that the current building works are completed to enable the proposer to provide fully working external electrical lighting	paragraphs 27 and 27(b)
ensure that existing drinking water facilities are suitably labelled	paragraph 28(1) and 28(1)(c)
ensure that the current work on the outdoor space is completed to enable pupils to play and to take part in physical education.	paragraphs 29(1), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)

Part 6. Provision of information

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. Leaders have all the required policies in place. The school has provided a checklist that contains all the necessary information that will be included on its website, which is currently under development. The school intends putting its safeguarding and child protection policies on the website when the school opens.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The proposed school is likely to meet all the standards in this part. The complaints policy contains all the required features. For example, it is in writing, it allows for a panel hearing within its formal procedure and it ensures that there will be an appropriate degree of confidentiality. The policy will be published on the school's website when the school opens.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements assessed in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below.

The school has provided evidence of trustees' experience, including the work of some to support and improve existing schools through their roles in the University of Winchester. Trustees have clear knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. There is strong understanding about the independent school standards that were inspected and about how leaders will ensure that they are consistently met. The trust has provided evidence of the board's structure and scheme of delegation, showing proposed governance arrangements. There are detailed procedures and policies in place, which should ensure that pupils' welfare is secure.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

ensure that standards in the preceding parts are likely to be met consistently.	paragraphs 34(1), 34(1)(a), 34(1)(b) and 34(1)(c)
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Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet this requirement. The accessibility plan contains suitable actions to support disabled pupils. For example, leaders intend to ensure that physical education activities can be wheelchair-friendly and Braille print is available to help those with sight problems to receive written information. The school's equality policy supports the contents of the accessibility plan. There is a clear system for monitoring and adapting the plan as required.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The proposed school has informative documents that explain what children are expected to learn by the end of each half term across all learning areas. These are in line with expectations for Reception children. Leaders' early years foundation stage policy explains its intended approach to meeting the education and welfare requirements, including safeguarding and first aid.

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