

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

School name	Two Rivers Church of England Primary School
Department for Education (DfE) registration number	800/2010
Unique reference number (URN)	147861
Inspection number	10148527
Inspection dates	28/05/2020
Reporting inspector	Jo Sharpe 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 executive headteacher, the head of school, the project manager, the proposer, the chief executive of the trust, the chief operating officer, a representative of the diocese and the chair of the interim education board. The inspector viewed a virtual tour of the school site and the shared facilities in the junior school. The inspector considered plans for the temporary site and scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. Using the available information, the inspector can give enough 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:

Number of day pupils	420 (initially 30 Reception children in September 2020 on the temporary site)
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

The new provision is intended to be a Church of England primary school with 'British values and our core values at the heart of everything'. The school, along with other primary schools in the trust, will have six school values: 'trust, respect, kindness, courage, co-operation and creativity'.

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 intends to take pupils into the Reception year only, and build its pupil capacity naturally over six years to 240 pupils up to Year 6. Initially, for the first two years, the school will be in a temporary unit on the site of Chandag Junior School. Chandag Infant School is on the same site. A permanent building is being built approximately half a mile away. Although not yet in place, the temporary buildings are already available for installation.

The new building is expected to be completed by 2022. It is located on the edge of a new housing estate that is currently being built. It is situated on the edge of a residential area between Bath and Bristol, being approximately seven miles from both conurbations. The school will back onto large fields, some of which will become part of the school grounds. The new building is being built to the 'Passive House Standard' so that it will be ecologically sound.

The executive headteacher (EHT) is also the EHT of the junior and infant school set on the initial site. The EHT was previously the headteacher of Chandag Infants School. The school is part of the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which consists of seven other primary schools, six of which have been judged good or better at their latest inspections. The trust also has secondary schools, special schools, studio schools and post-16 provision. The school will be governed by the Wellsway MAT trustees who have delegated some responsibility to an interim education board. The EHT will oversee the leadership of the school. A head of school will be responsible for the daily running of the school.

The original proposer has since left the trust but supported this inspection process. His replacement has been appointed but is not fully involved at this stage.

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. Several documents support the school's core values, including the values and curriculum statement, the relationship and sex education policy, and the personal, social and health education scheme of work. These documents show ample opportunity for the promotion of pupils' strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Documents such as the staff code of conduct and the visitors' statement demonstrate how adults will be able to take reasonable steps to protect pupils from any partisan political views. Provision in this aspect has been carefully planned for and is likely to be strong if implemented effectively.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have several policies, including a health and safety policy, a behaviour policy and an anti-bullying policy, which indicate that careful thought and planning has taken place to comply with guidance and to support the health, safety and well-being of adults and pupils. All policies have been implemented successfully by the EHT in other schools in the trust.

The safer recruitment policy along with appropriately trained staff, support from human resources in the trust and comprehensive induction and training programmes provide processes to safeguard pupils.

School leaders have written a comprehensive health and safety policy, which ensures that checks and risk assessments will be completed. Leaders have already contacted the local fire authorities and these are ready to complete risk assessments when required.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations for this part. The single central register is already in place. Those staff who are already employed by the trust in another capacity have been replicated onto the single central register for the Two Rivers Church of England Primary School.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. However, the level of assurance is lower than that for other paragraphs. Although the inspector was unable to visit the school site, a virtual tour was held of the proposed temporary site and of the parts of the junior school building that will be used by pupils. The temporary building is ready to be put on site once the site has been prepared.

Consideration has been made to ensure that this temporary building meets requirements. All anticipated dates in the planning process have been met, despite disruption due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

The new building is being built to specific environmental standards and building is not due to commence until 2021. Documentation for this new building is not yet available.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The school website contains all required information and policies. Information is available on either the trust site or in a specific link to the school.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The complaints policy, which is available on the trust's website, is comprehensive, clear and concise.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for this part. The trust already has experience of opening and running schools, including primary schools. Leaders have clear policies and procedures to meet the health and welfare needs of pupils. Leadership responsibilities are clearly set out in documents such as the scheme of delegation and governance plan.

Leaders have created comprehensive professional development plans and monitoring plans to quality assure the provision provided. The trust provides professional development programmes so that staff at all levels can aspire to improve their skills and knowledge and specialise as required. The monitoring of quality is through ongoing reporting arrangements and through systematic self-evaluations against a set of clear criteria.

Policies and procedures have already been implemented by the EHT in schools where leadership and management have been judged to be good.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. An accessibility plan considers how support for pupils can be adapted to meet their requirements and how this can be adapted over time.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. Leaders have ensured that those who will care for and educate the initial cohort of Reception-age children will be

suitably qualified and experienced. The head of school is an experienced early years practitioner who has carefully considered the needs of these young children.

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