

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	St Frideswide Church of England Primary School
DfE registration number	931/2037
Unique reference number (URN)	148247
Inspection number	10165373
Inspection dates	08/10/2020
Reporting inspector	Clive Close, Her Majesty's Inspector



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. The inspector met with the headteacher, other members of the school's leadership team, the chief executive officer of Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust and the chair (designate) of the school's interim academy committee (IAC). The inspector reviewed a range of policies and documents, including the school's single central register of checks on adults, and the school's current website.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as an academy for:

Number of day pupils	452 (including 32 nursery places)
Age range	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	Not applicable

Context of the school

It is proposed that the new school will open on 1 November 2020, having de-amalgamated from its current arrangement as the primary phase of St Gregory the Great Catholic School. The school will occupy its current site within its own boundaries, but with a shared entrance with the neighbouring secondary school. The new school has its own playgrounds and green-field areas. It will also share an artificial-turf sports area with the secondary school.

The new school will join the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust, a large Church of England multi-academy trust. In the first instance, the school will have an IAC, which will be responsible to the trust for local governance of the school.

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.

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 relevant standards in this part. Leaders have a clear vision for the school and how it will support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils. Leaders have given a lot of thought to the ethos and values of the new school. A revised set of values based on courage, justice and joy will underpin the day-to-day life of the school. The wider curriculum is designed to provide pupils with opportunities to learn about the cultures, faiths and beliefs of others, including those of their peers. Leaders understand the importance of actively promoting fundamental British values, including tolerance and respect for others.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. Appropriate policies are already in place. The safeguarding policy is compliant with current guidelines and will be published on the school's new website before the school opens. Staff have already received training appropriate to their individual levels of responsibility to keep pupils safe. This includes the designated safeguarding lead and deputies and staff in early years who are trained in paediatric first aid. Appropriate risk assessments, including a fire risk assessment, are already in place.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. The single central register is already in place and the necessary information is recorded thoroughly. Appropriate pre-employment checks have been carried out on all staff at the school. Leaders are aware of the range of checks that need to be carried out on any adults who come into contact with children at the school. This includes members of the IAC and supply staff. Key leaders have already attended safer recruitment training.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. Due to the restrictions in place because of COVID-19, the inspector was unable to tour the whole school site. However, it is clear that the current school building is fit for purpose, having been refurbished in 2014. Also, the school in its present form has been visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors and Ofsted Inspectors on a number of occasions recently and no concerns have been raised about the standard of premises and accommodation. Leaders were able to talk credibly about the requirements of part 5 when this was discussed with them.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. The school's new website is not yet live, but will contain a wide range of information, including all the

information required under part 6. Contact information and key policies will be available for parents and other interested parties. These include the safeguarding and complaints policies, and information about the curriculum and provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. The complaints policy is fully compliant with part 7 and will be available on the school's new website or in paper form. Leaders fully understand all requirements of this part, including the requirement to publish the number of complaints in the previous school year on the school's website.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all the relevant standards in this part. Leaders at all levels are ambitious for the school's future. Collectively they possess the requisite knowledge, skills and expertise to lead and manage the school successfully.

The proposed school will become part of an established multi-academy trust, if approval is given. Representatives of the trust already have a good understanding of the school's strengths and areas that now need to be developed.

The IAC is ready to begin its work as soon as the new school opens. An experienced chair has already been designated to lead the ICA. Systems and procedures for officers from the multi-academy trust to support and challenge school leaders are already in place.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The proposed school is likely to meet the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. Relevant policies and plans are in place. Leaders understand their duties under the Act.

Statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage

The school is likely to meet all the relevant statutory requirements. This includes all aspects of safeguarding and welfare, and the learning and development requirements of the early years foundation stage. The early years will be led by an experienced member of the school's senior leadership team who has a successful track record in leading early years provision. Teaching and support staff are already in position and are also suitably experienced and knowledgeable. Additionally, systems and procedures are fully in place to enable staff to provide the support and care for children to thrive in the school's Nursery and Reception Years of the proposed school.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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