

# Advice note for pre-registration inspections of all types of academies and free schools/studio schools/university technical colleges (UTC)

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School name	Heron Hall Academy
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1473
Inspection number	422379
Inspection dates	17 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Helena McVeigh

## **Information about the inspection**

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>1</sup>

### **Context of the school**

The proposed Heron Hall Academy for girls and boys aged 11 to 19 years is to be sponsored by the Cuckoo Hall Academy Trust. In its first two years of opening, the plan is for the academy to be located in part of the Woodpecker Hall Primary School in Edmonton, North London. Woodpecker Hall is one of three primary schools that are sponsored by the Cuckoo Hall Academy Trust and which will feed into the Heron Hall Academy. The adaptations to rooms in Woodpecker Hall School are underway, along with construction of three modular classrooms. The academy plans to admit up to 90 Year 7 students in September 2013 and for the number on roll to grow each year. A permanent site has recently been agreed – in part of the former Middlesex University building in Ponders End, which is a short distance from the primary schools. The intention is to move into the permanent site by September 2015 and to increase the intake until there are eventually eight forms of entry with a maximum roll of 1,680 students.

There are 77 students registered for September's intake, of whom 20 have special educational needs and two have statements of special educational needs.

Heron Hall Academy's aim is to be an inclusive school and to offer all students, regardless of their abilities, a rounded education in all major subjects, but with special emphasis on English and literacy to equip them for their lives ahead in the workplace. The school motto is 'together we can succeed'.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

All requirements are likely to be met, but implementation was not seen. The academy has prepared a spiritual, moral, social and cultural development policy that sets out how it intends to ensure a consistent approach to students' personal development through the curriculum and general life of the school. A teacher has begun to map the contribution of each subject to students' personal development. The academy aspires to an ethos in which there is a 'strong moral purpose' within an atmosphere of 'warmth and respect'. The school's 'positive behaviour' policy sets out clear expectations for students' behaviour along with a list of rewards and sanctions. There is also a home/school charter that outlines expectations for the academy staff,

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

parents/carers and students. Heron Hall intends to include lessons on 'Character Education' with an aim to 'help students develop into moral, well behaved, successful, honest and socially acceptable young people'. The plan is to give students a range of responsibilities, such as being literacy leaders, mathematics champions, house captains and members of the school council. Badges have already been purchased for these roles, along with 'stars' to recognise good behaviour and attendance.

The academy plans to teach students about civil law and how they can contribute to the local community through the curriculum, for example, in humanities, English and personal, social and health education lessons. As part of the extended learning programme, topics such as 'society and civilisation' are planned to include consideration of local and national public services and institutions. The academy plans to draw on the experience of members of the governing body who were local councillors to teach students about democracy and to engage them in community activities.

The proposed curriculum, including the extended learning programme, and assemblies are intended to provide many opportunities for students to learn about and respect other faiths and cultures. The academy plans to include visits to nearby places of worship to enable students to learn about and celebrate different religions and religious festivals. The academy aims to ensure that students are provided with a balanced view where political or other issues are discussed, for example in humanities and religious education lessons or during assemblies. Staff are reminded of the need to avoid political bias by, for example, reference to the Teachers' Standards.

## **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

All of the requirements are likely to be met, but implementation was not seen. The academy has prepared a wide range of policies, including all those required in relation to welfare, health and safety. For example, there are appropriate policies on child protection, safeguarding, safer recruitment, health and safety, anti-bullying and first aid. The headteacher will be the designated person for child protection and has been trained to the required level in February this year. All other staff who have been appointed have had child protection awareness training and more is planned for the start of term as part of the induction programme for all staff. One member of staff has had appropriate recent training in first aid and further training is planned for all staff at the beginning of term.

Several teachers and the Chair of Governors have recently undertaken safer recruitment training. The academy plans to use electronic attendance and admissions registers and has started to upload information about each of the 77 students enrolled for September. The plan is for teachers to use Ipads to record attendance and to print out hard copies each week.

There is a detailed report from the fire authority for the current site, with appropriate risk assessments. Further checks will be undertaken when the modular classrooms and other alterations have been completed.

The requirements of the Equality Act are likely to be met. The Trust has prepared a suitable accessibility improvement plan for Heron Hall Academy and the current site has full access for wheelchair users, including ramps, lifts and disabled toilets.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

All requirements are likely to be met. The academy has prepared a suitable single central register and has entered the necessary checks and information for the staff already appointed. The academy is awaiting Disclosure and Barring Service checks on some staff who have only been appointed in the last week.

The Trust is undertaking and recording criminal record checks on all members of the governing body. The academy plans to use a known supply agency that is used by other schools within the Trust, if there is a need for supply staff next year. The academy plans to undertake their own identity checks on supply staff as well.

### **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

All requirements are likely to be met.

For the first two years the academy will be housed in part of the Woodpecker Hall Primary School, which is a brand new building that opened in September 2011. The school has space because it is designed for two forms of entry from Nursery to Year 6 and in September there will only be students up to and including Year 2. The rooms that will be needed by Heron Hall Academy are being adapted, where necessary, and will be kept apart from the primary school, with a separate entrance. In addition, a modular block is being constructed to house a science laboratory, design and technology room and a library. This block will include boys' and girls' toilets and a small shower room. The academy will have its own hall for physical education, drama, assemblies and lunch. The academy has made arrangements for changing rooms for physical education. There is a limited number of separate showers for girls and boys, but physical education is timetabled to take place at the end of the school day to allow time for students to use the showers.

There are plans for a small but adequate separate playground for Heron Hall students and they will also have access to the playing field and basketball/netball courts used by the primary school. The entire site is surrounded by a high fence and the entrance is controlled by buzzers and intercoms.

The planned classrooms are of an adequate size with good acoustics and natural light. There is a separate good-sized medical room with its own toilet and wash basin. All of the wash basins are provided with hot and cold water and the hot water

temperature is regulated so it does not get too hot. Drinking water is planned to be provided by labelled water fountains and coolers.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

### **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

## **Recommendation to the Department for Education**

### **Registration**

Is registration recommended?

**YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of pupils: 180 (in the current accommodation)

Recommended age range: 11–13 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the planned building works have been completed.