

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

School name	ARK John Keats Academy
DfE registration number	808/4001
Unique reference number (URN)	139815
Inspection number	422378
Inspection dates	16 August 2013
Reporting inspector	David Scott

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 2008.¹

Context of the school

ARK John Keats Academy will be located in a former all-age school building in Enfield, North East London, which is currently being refurbished, with phase one being due to be completed by the end of August 2013. The academy is sponsored by ARK Schools and is due to open on 16 September 2013. The academy has applied to be registered to admit 1,890 boys and girls from ages three to 19. It will admit children aged four and five in its first year. At present there are 26 children registered for enrolment. It is not yet known how many children have special educational needs or how many will be in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. The academy's guiding brief aims to ensure that 'every pupil has the capacity to be a knowledgeable, literate, articulate, confident and compassionate individual'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The academy's proposed vision and purpose seek to 'imbue pupils' minds with a breadth and depth of knowledge that enables them to develop cultural literacy and a true self-worth that will enable them to gain entry to the best universities'. The intended curriculum is planned to ensure that pupils will attain high standards in literacy as well as emphasising 'mathematical mastery'. In addition to studying National Curriculum subjects, all pupils will learn a musical instrument up until the end of Year 9 and will participate in physical exercise three times a week. The academy's intended ethos will be founded on seven 'pillars' – 'raising aspirations; high academic expectations; exemplary behaviour; excellent teaching; depth before breadth; more time for learning; and knowing every child'. These 'pillars' will be at the centre of the planned personal, social, health education courses, which are also designed to develop an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England, and will 'focus on the development of the whole child'.

The planned assembly programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, is intended to provide all students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens by appreciating and respecting the diversity of the various traditions and cultures

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

globally and in the local community. The academy will provide opportunities for children and their parents and carers to work in partnership with the wider community. Pupils will undertake visits to explore places of interest, for example the city farm in North Enfield and the local leisure centre. Social development and pupils' participation in the community will be further enhanced by the pupils linking with local charities and businesses and helping senior citizens in the area. The staff handbook details arrangements to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. The academy has suitable policies in place for safeguarding children and for the recruitment of staff. All senior staff and academy governors have undergone suitable training in safer recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. There are two members of staff appointed who hold a qualification in paediatric first aid. For those members of staff still to be appointed, dates have been identified and a specialist qualified trainer has been firmly booked to provide the training in child protection, safeguarding procedures and first aid before the academy opens, so that requirements are likely to be met.

Policies for health and safety, emergency evacuation and off-site visits have been compiled. Risk assessments have been completed, including for fire safety, so that requirements are likely to be met. The academy's Code of Conduct and Culture Rubrics, contained within the behaviour policy, set out an appropriate range of incentives and sanctions so that children can take responsibility for their own actions. This is 'so that they will be able to learn, appreciate their lessons, make friends and be enthusiastic about education'. Attendance and admission registers are available in an appropriate electronic format and are ready for use. The academy has in place a three-year accessibility plan to review and improve equality of access for disabled children.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All the required vetting checks on appointed staff and academy governors are captured in a single central record which meets requirements. The academy does not intend to employ supply staff. However, should the need arise, it has appropriate procedures in place to conduct the required checks on such staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A tour of the site and scrutiny of the architect's plans confirm that phase one of the new build is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September, although building work is not quite complete at this time. There are a suitable number of washrooms available with safely regulated hot water, including one washroom designated for disabled users. Heating and lighting systems are likely to

meet requirements. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to children. The access policy details arrangements for disabled children to be admitted to the academy. A suitable location has been identified for a medical room, complete with hand basin, with washrooms opposite. All pupils, and especially the Reception classes, have access to a generous safe outside space, so that children can enjoy their learning and recreation.

At present, arrangements for phase two of the building programme have not been finalised and no plans were available for scrutiny.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The academy is likely to meet all the regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 1,890

Recommended age range: 3–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

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