

# Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy/free school/studio school/university technical college (UTC)

---

School name	Sparkwell All Saints Primary School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1467
Inspection number	422372
Inspection dates	2 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Mick Pye

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/user](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/user).

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2013



## 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.

## Context of the school

The proposed free primary school is due to open this September on the site of the old school in the village of Sparkwell. The old school is to be utilised initially while the new building is being constructed. Work on the new building adjacent to the village hall is shortly to start. The school has applied to be registered to admit 105 boys and girls in the age range of four to 11 years. Currently it has 28 applications for entry this year, with 24 being in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school has been founded with a commitment to contribute to the rejuvenation of the local community, whilst developing knowledge and skills that prepare pupils for the modern world. The focus will be on transferable skills, collaborative learning and working with local businesses on real community projects. Also, the promotion of exceptionally high standards in literacy, numeracy and science is a clearly stated aim in the prospectus. The school intends to accept pupils with disability or special educational needs, but has no current information as to whether there will be any such pupils this September.

## 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 spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils will start with the 'Twenty Two Values' which the school has identified. These will be introduced monthly, reinforced through the daily life of the school and discussed in circle time. Pupils' self-esteem and confidence are to be reinforced through individual education plans and the 'pupil passport' which encourages self-evaluation against such aptitudes as applying creativity, relationships, competencies for learning and aspects of civic responsibilities. The religious education programme examines various faiths, so as to develop pupils' tolerance and respect for other cultures than their own. Many visits into the local community are scheduled, including to the local zoo, where an education programme has already been identified. This will result in pupils teaching other pupils who visit the zoo. Through the detailed behaviour and anti-bullying policies, along with the values work, the school intends to raise awareness of positive relationships and an awareness of right and wrong. Through history and the values projects, the school will promote an awareness of tolerance and diversity. The commitment to the local community will lead to the involvement of pupils in the local parish council and a raised awareness of the workings of modern democracy, public

institutions and civil law. There is a clear commitment to ensuring that only balanced political discussions and activities take place.

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

Documentary evidence, building plans and current policies indicate that most of the regulations are likely to be met. There is a very clear child protection policy in place. As part of the policy, the governors have a compliance checklist that will help ensure their roles are fully met with regard to the safeguarding of children. A designated officer has been named. Training in child protection is in place as part of the staff induction prior to the school's opening. A member of staff is already a qualified first-aid-er and the requirement for a paediatric-trained member of staff is also already met. There is a very clear first aid policy. A detailed health and safety policy is in place and there are arrangements for the fire officer to visit the school during and after the refurbishment work on the old school. However, as yet there is no fire risk assessment. The school makes a very clear commitment to equal opportunity through a rather unique 'Nine Principles' approach. It clearly states that all learners are of equal value and the aim is to remove any barriers to equality. A three year accessibility plan has yet to be drawn up.

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

- develop a fire risk assessment (paragraph 13)
- produce a three year accessibility plan in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

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

Most requirements are likely to be met. An outside independent agency has been commissioned to oversee the necessary checks on the suitability of adults for working with children. The initial job advertisements and the person specifications show a clear commitment to carrying out a barring check and the collection of references prior to the interview. Nobody is offered employment until all checks have been carried out. The single central register is in place, but there is currently no record on the register that any external business has carried out checks on its employees who visit the school and work alongside the pupils. Confidentiality of records has been appropriately addressed.

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

- ensure that in relation to staff not directly employed by the school, the register clearly shows whether written notification has been received from the employment business that it has carried out the necessary suitability checks on their employees (paragraph 22(5)).

## Premises of and accommodation at the school

The old school and the new site were visited. These site walks, together with the building plans, suggest that the school is likely to meet most regulations. For both buildings, the plans show that the security of pupils has been considered and addressed. The plans for the old school show two large areas with 'break-out' rooms attached. More traditional classrooms, with direct access to outdoors, are planned for the new school. The school intends to keep the old school as an additional learning resource. In both buildings, suitable arrangements are in place for pupils requiring medical attention, and the need for appropriate first aid equipment and accommodation are met in the plans. There are adequate washrooms in both the old school and the proposed new-build, and attention has been paid to ensure that the hot water temperature is maintained at a safe level. In the old school building, the need for appropriate acoustics is already met. The building plans for the new building address the need for lighting and acoustics, but implementation was not seen. At the old school site, there is insufficient external lighting where the gate directly meets the road. The need to provide adequate space for recreation has been met. For physical education, the local village field is to be used and the school is aware of the need to develop a suitable risk assessment for pupils' movement and their safety on the field. The Department of Education will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the school trust.

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

- ensure that adequate external lighting is provided in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the premises (paragraph 23E(b)).

## Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet most of the regulations.

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

- put the chairperson's name and address on the website (paragraph 24(1)(a)).

## Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet most of the regulations.

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

- outline in the complaints policy that the three people attending the panel meeting must not have been directly involved in the matters detailed in the complaint (paragraph 25(f))
- outline in the policy that one person on the panel must be independent of the management and running of the school (paragraph 25(g))

- outline in the policy that written records are to be kept of all complaints indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing (paragraph 25(j))
- outline in the policy that all statements and records of complaints are to be kept confidential (paragraph 25 (k)).

## Recommendation to the Department for Education

### Registration

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**
  - develop a fire risk assessment (paragraph 13)
  - produce a three year accessibility plan in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
  - the school should ensure that in relation to staff not directly employed by the school, the register of staff checks clearly shows whether written notification has been received from the employment business that it has carried out the necessary suitability checks on their employees (paragraph 22(5))
  - ensure that adequate external lighting is provided in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the premises (paragraph 23E(b))
  - put the chairperson's name and address on the website (paragraph 24(1)(a))
  - outline in the complaints policy that at least three people attending the panel meeting must not have been directly involved in the matters detailed in the complaint (paragraph 25(f))
  - outline in the policy that one person on the panel must be independent of the management and running of the school (paragraph 25(g))
  - outline in the policy that written records are kept of all complaints indicating whether they were resolved at the preliminary stage or whether they proceeded to a panel hearing (paragraph 25(j))

- outline in the policy that all statements and records of complaints are to be kept confidential (paragraph 25(k)).
- The Department of Education will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the school trust.

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 105

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4–11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A