

# 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	Rosewood Free School
DfE registration number	852 7050
Unique reference number (URN)	1279
Inspection number	403999
Inspection dates	16 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Barry King

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## **Context of the school**

The school will be located in the north of the city of Southampton. It is planned to open on 1 September 2012. The new school involves an extension in size of Rosewood School and change of status to a free school. This school is currently a non-maintained special, non-denominational school that provides places for boys and girls with profound and multiple learning difficulties. All students at the free school will have statements of special educational needs. The current premises are 10 years old and on one site. They form part of the Rose Road Association Charity, from which the school rents its accommodation. The school educates students aged two to 19, drawn from Southampton, Hampshire and Dorset. The planned expansion in the number on roll, from a current figure of 34 to a total by September 2013 of 60, is mainly to accommodate an increased number of students from Southampton who have a high level of need. The alteration in the school's premises is to be in two stages, with internal modifications to be completed by the beginning of September this year and the extensions to the school by the following October half-term. Plans have been agreed for this work. The extra students will be admitted steadily during the course of the next year.

The school's aims are to value individuals, celebrate achievement and respect choices made by young people with disadvantages. It is planned to employ 10 teaching staff, two of whom will be part time, and 29 assistants. These staff have already been recruited.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

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

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met. The school's plans are to provide for the personal, social and emotional well-being of students with very high levels of learning difficulty. All students in the main school are assessed as being on Levels P1 to P3. The school's plans include, on a fully individualised basis, the development of greater independence in eating, drinking, toileting and bathing. A well-developed recording instrument is in place to chart students' progress in these skills. An important part of encouraging autonomy will be to offer choice to students, for example between two possible rewards for an accomplishment. The curriculum is enriched to aid students to gain a basic appreciation of cultures and the world beyond their homes and school, for example by visits to places of religious worship. The school will introduce students to English public institutions and services. The school's leadership is fully attuned to students' needs and the planned provision is likely to meet them.

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

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met. The arrangements for the safeguarding of students have been approved by the local safeguarding board. The

headteacher is the child protection officer. The planned school has a written policy for promoting good behaviour. Due to the low cognitive functioning of the students, this is at the level of modifying habitual behaviours, for example through strategies to prevent disturbed students biting themselves. The school, as required, has in place an anti-bullying policy. All other required policies are in place and take account of the latest guidance.

To support students' welfare, nurses will be part of the school's establishment. Policies to promote students' health include those on hygiene and the management of epilepsy. Risk assessments will be a major part of the school's work, with individual assessments for the moving and handling of all students. It is policy for all staff to be trained in this. A risk assessment policy exists for off-site visits, with the headteacher to coordinate these activities. Fire safety assessments will be finished for the remodelled accommodation by 20 July so that requirements are met. The school's first aid policy includes employing a team of nurses who will follow NHS policy on medication. Students will be constantly attended by staff. Students' food includes a vegetarian option and is prepared in six textures to suit the range of students' eating needs. The school plans an appropriate approach to admissions and has a suitable attendance register in place. It has an equal opportunities policy.

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

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met. To ensure safe recruitment, all appointed staff are appropriately vetted, and it will be the school's policy that no one will start work in the school until this has been done. The arrangements for the current school are that staff, volunteers and school visitors are listed on an electronic single central record, which shows all necessary information. The governors and site management staff are also appropriately vetted, with their records currently held by the administration of the Rose Road Association in the same building. The school plans to ensure that governors and site managers will be placed as required on the single central record by 20 July 2012 so that requirements will be met. The school's policy is not to hire supply teachers as their background is unlikely to meet the needs of its students, although the school's leadership is fully aware of the necessary procedures. When staff are away, the school intends to provide cover from regular volunteers and redeployment of other staff, to ensure that all adults are known to students.

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

The school is likely to meet the requirements of this standard. Existing premises are fit for purpose and have been well maintained. Classrooms are well equipped and the school has a sensory room and a water play facility. The classrooms in the extension are planned to be of the same good standard as current ones. External security is appropriate, with external doors requiring codes to enter. All classes are at ground-floor level and have individual exits for outdoor activities, under the cover of a roof, also for use in case of emergency. Horizontal fire evacuation facilities to safe zones within the overall building are planned to be in place by September 2013. Given the

needs of the students, each class will have its own hygiene area and the school will have a dedicated medical room. Food is prepared in an on-site canteen and served within students' own classrooms, to avoid sensory overload in a common area.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. All relevant policies will be handed to parents in an information pack and posted on the school's new website. Parents will be provided with an annual review of their child's statement and participate in the review process. As in the present school, they will receive daily communication books about their children.

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

The planned 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.**

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 60

Recommended age range: 2–19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Profound and multiple learning difficulties