

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

School name	Avanti House
DfE registration number	310/2000
Unique reference number (URN)	138227
Inspection number	403949
Inspection dates	19 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Sue Rogers

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Context of the school

Avanti House School plans to open in September 2012, as a mixed school for pupils aged from 4 to 18 years. The school will be operated as part of the Avanti Schools Trust and, as such, it is anticipated that the ethos and curriculum will be broadly Hindu and strongly rooted in the teachings of Krishna Chaitanga. The school website and documentation available to parents stress that the school is open to pupils of any religion as well as those who do not adhere to any religious faith. There are consequently no admissions criteria relating to religious affiliation, and admissions are administered by Harrow Council. Although the school has already been able to process a considerable number of applications, it is awaiting further details as to those who will be admitted this year. It therefore does not, as yet, have a clear picture of its pupil profile. It is predicted that 135 places will be taken up this September, for pupils in Reception and Year 7 classes. The future intention is that pupils of the full age range 4 to 18 years will be admitted.

Avanti House is still in negotiation with Harrow local authority over the eventual location of the new school. In the meantime, the school will open on two sites. Up to 240 Year 7 pupils will be accommodated in part of the building that has recently been used as Harrow Teachers' Centre in Wealdstone. This is the school's preferred location for the permanent site and planners have agreed that it could eventually accommodate up to 1,680 pupils. The building is being refurbished over the course of the summer. Two classes, of up to 30 Reception-aged children in each, will be based at the Avanti Schools Trust purpose-built Krishna-Avanti Primary School in Edgware. All of the required staff, including a Principal, a Vice Principal, a special educational needs coordinator and 14 other teachers, have already been appointed. Leaders and managers are clear that the school's vision should be paramount in all that it does and this is very clearly stated on its website. Its three main principles of educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight are fully explained and permeate all the school's policies.

Initially, the school will be working in close partnership with other Avanti Schools, especially the primary school in which the Reception children will be based. Year 7 pupils will be sharing some facilities, such as a gymnasium and hall, with Whitefriars Community School, directly adjacent to the Harrow Teachers' Centre. There are developing links with two Krishna schools in the United States of America. The umbrella organisation, the i-Foundation, which administers the Avanti Trust, is also enabling contact with groups in India, who will assist in developing curricular resources.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to the satisfactory implementation of the planned curriculum. The school places a very strong

emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. Its focus on the key three principles ensures that aspects of these areas are woven into detailed and thorough school policies. The programme of study encapsulates values such as empathy, self-discipline, respect, integrity and courage. These units should ensure effective personal development and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. A comprehensive behaviour for learning policy lays out expectations for high standards of behaviour. The planned curriculum incorporates a strong sense of community and citizenship and will provide pupils with a good insight into English institutions and services. Supporting pupils' development of tolerance and respect for other cultures is seen as key to the work of the school. Planned themes include, for example, learning about all major religions and their festivals.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All policies relating to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are in place and are likely to be compliant with current requirements, subject to implementation. The school has confirmed that the buildings to be utilised already comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Anti-bullying policies and behaviour policies are thorough. The health and safety policy includes all that is required, including reference to risk assessments for any visits to be undertaken. The school's first-aid policy is clear about medical provision. Some staff recruited already hold the requisite first-aid qualifications. Training is being arranged for those who do not. Fire assessments are comprehensive. Electronic attendance and admission registers have been set up in readiness for the school's opening.

The school has ensured that at least one member of any staff appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training. It understands the need to check the previous employment history of staff and to take up references. Further training is to be organised for the Principal and governors when the governing body is established. The special needs coordinator will be the designated person for child protection. She has already undertaken training, as have the Principal and Vice-Principal. Safeguarding training is planned for all staff, before the school opens in the autumn, so that requirements will be met.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All requirements are likely to be met. A single central record which meets requirements has been compiled. All staff, proprietors, members of the governing body and anyone who will be working alone with pupils are being appropriately vetted. Currently, there are no plans to utilise supply teachers.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

All requirements are likely to be met by the current buildings. The Reception classes are to be housed in new, purpose-built classrooms that are vacant, as the Krishna-

Avanti Primary School is not yet full. The only adaptation necessary is the provision of appropriate outdoor learning areas for Early Years Foundation Stage children. This is in hand.

A programme of refurbishment of the teachers' centre premises, for Year 7, is planned to commence on 23 July and will last for approximately one month. Detailed project plans, timescales and engineers' specifications show that these buildings are likely to be ready for the planned opening in September. The specifications meet all the regulations. Classrooms have been utilised historically as teaching areas and will require only redecoration and some refurbishment. Additional toilets and washbasins are to be installed to meet requirements. Alterations to outdoor areas include providing appropriate recreational space.

Both buildings are already adapted to ensure suitable access for any pupils with disabilities. A suitable medical room area will be available on both premises. Vegetarian food will be cooked in the established kitchen on the Krishna-Avanti Primary School site and delivered daily to the secondary school. Suitable furnishings and fittings have been ordered for the Reception classes. Inventories and reorganisation of the teachers' centre building fixtures and fittings are currently being completed in order to expedite the order of any additional furniture necessary for the secondary school building.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. The school's website is informative and well organised. Some policies, such as those relating to admissions and curriculum, are already available online or on request at the school office. All policies will soon be available via the website. There has been valuable and ongoing consultation with parents and carers and other members of the community over the establishment of the school. Regular termly reports to parents and carers on their children's progress are planned.

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 day pupils: Up to 240 pupils in the present premises,
rising to 1,680 when permanent premises are completed

Recommended age range: 4 to 18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.