

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

School name	West Newcastle Academy
DfE registration number	391/1431
Unique reference number (URN)	1431
Inspection number	422327
Inspection dates	25 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Young

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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

The proposed West Newcastle Academy is to be located in new, purpose-built premises in West Newcastle. It is sponsored by a local charity, 'Kids and Us'. These premises are due for completion for occupation in September 2014. The school will open in September 2013 and will be located in temporary premises for one year, at Benwell Nature Park, in the same area of West Newcastle. The school will be registered to admit up to 195 pupils in the age range 4 to 11 years. It will admit up to 28 pupils into the Reception class in September 2013. The school is non-selective and will cater for some pupils with statements of special educational needs. The school aims to 'provide a very personalised approach, building learning environments that are meaningful to every child, because we know that children learn best when they are interested and engaged in their learning'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The school's policies for the management of behaviour and the prevention of bullying provide a clear framework within which children will be taught the difference between right and wrong and the school's expected moral codes, and introduced to the workings of civil law. The programme for personal, social and health education includes a number of themes designed to ensure that pupils have an understanding of relationships, respect for differences and how they may take responsibility. The responsibilities of active citizens are stressed, for example for the youngest children, how to look after animals.

The study of different kinds of families includes a global dimension and investigation of foods from around the world. The planned programme for older children provides them with the opportunity to learn about representation and democracy, the functioning of public institutions and the role of voluntary groups within the community. Pupils will be encouraged to organise charitable collections and to understand budgeting and family expenses. The school population will be culturally diverse and pupils will be encouraged to consider racial, ethnic and cultural differences in the local and wider communities. The school's planning includes a number of activities designed to enable the children to develop relationships, to

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

design and make toys for other children, to celebrate festivals, to work creatively, and to develop social skills suitable for the Early Years children to be admitted in the first year. There is no evidence of any political or religious bias in any of the school's documentation.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all but one of the regulations are likely to be met. The school has produced all the required policies including comprehensive procedures for safeguarding children and child protection; anti-bullying; behaviour and discipline (including rewards, sanctions and exclusions); educational visits (including forest schools procedures) and first aid. The headteacher is to be the designated person for child protection and has been trained to the required level. Arrangements are in place for training all staff in child protection during their induction before the school opens so that requirements are likely to be met. Four members of staff have been trained to suitable levels in first aid, including one member of staff qualified in paediatric first aid.

The headteacher has been trained in safer recruitment. Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff are documented and ensure that all required statutory checks are completed and recorded. These procedures have been implemented effectively for all staff appointed to date. Suitable policies have been prepared for all aspects of health and safety and fire safety, including arrangements for fire evacuations and for the required periodic checks on fire safety equipment. A premises risk assessment and fire risk assessment have been prepared for the temporary accommodation but a report from the local fire officer has not yet been arranged. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained on an electronic management information system. A suitable three-year plan to increase accessibility has been prepared.

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all checks on the suitability of staff, and implementation to date, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All the required checks have been completed for the proprietors and all staff appointed to date. Details of these checks are being entered into a suitable single central register as they are received. The school does not propose to employ agency supply staff but is aware of the required procedures should they appoint supply staff in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The temporary accommodation to be used for the first year consists of a building currently used as a visitors' centre within a nature park. A condition survey has been completed and refurbishment is currently

in progress. A premises risk assessment has been completed for the accommodation. Plans for the refurbishment were scrutinised and discussed and the site was visited. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the building project and the Department will wish to monitor progress directly with the agency.

The premises are suitable for the education of up to 28 reception-aged children as planned for the first year of opening. There are sufficient teaching spaces, storage facilities and office space. There are sufficient washrooms for pupils and for staff, including disabled access. Furniture suitable for the proposed age range is on order and due for delivery before the school opens. A medical room, suitable for medical examinations and to accommodate any pupil who may be ill, is provided. There are suitable facilities for the preparation and serving of food. There is sufficient outside space, including hard and grassed play areas, with a secure boundary. The school has easy access to the nature reserve in which the building is located.

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

- **YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in the following matters:**

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Recommended number of day pupils: 28*

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 4–5 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

*The school has applied to be registered for up to 195 pupils. The premises due to open in September 2013 are suitable to accommodate up to 28 pupils, which is the maximum planned intake over the next year. Once the accommodation is completed on the proposed permanent site a material change inspection may be required to

assess the suitability of the premises and accommodation to admit up to 195 pupils in the age range 4 to 11 years.