

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

School name	Visions Learning Trust, UTC
DfE registration number	888/
Unique reference number (URN)	1419
Inspection number	422311
Inspection dates	18 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Zahid Aziz

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.

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.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: 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 2008.¹

Context of the school

The proposed Vision Learning Trust University Technical College (UTC) is to be located in a converted cotton mill, close to Burnley town centre. The college is sponsored by Training 2000 and is to be run by the Vision Training Trust. It is due to open on 29 August 2013 with 55 Year 10 and 49 Year 12 students who are currently registered for enrolment. The college has applied to be registered to admit up to 800 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 19 years. It is intended that the college will admit students with special educational needs. Two students registered for enrolment have statements of special educational needs. The proposed college has no religious affiliation. It intends to focus on professional learning, work experience, and life skills with the key emphasis on engineering and technology.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations but implementation could not be seen as it has yet to open. The policy on personal, social, health and education (PSHE) and citizenship indicates that students will acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they will need to lead healthy and independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their experiences and to develop self-confidence and self-esteem. The personal, social and health education (PSHE) course will enable students to acquire an understanding of the difference between right and wrong, to develop an awareness of civil and criminal law. The college will encourage students to participate in programmes to improve the local environment, for example taking part in the clearing of the nearby canal. Students will be enabled to understand and respect diversity and cultural differences through the PSHE programme, visits and visitors. The PSHE programme and outside visits will also help them to gain an understanding of the working of public institutions in England. There is no indication from schemes of work or other planning that any political bias will be tolerated or promoted in lessons or in other activities.

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

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. Implementation could not be seen as the college is not operating. All the required policies and procedures are in place. They include appropriate policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. All staff have an appropriate level of safeguarding training. The designated safeguarding officer has been trained at the required level and the college has made arrangements to ensure that all staff that are recruited according to its code of safe recruitment. The college has sufficient staff trained in first aid. It has prepared suitable policies for health and safety and fire safety. Premises and fire safety risk assessments have been carried out by the college. It has also prepared suitable risk assessments related to individuals, learning activities and trips. There is a staff rota in place to ensure that students are well supervised during breaks and lunchtimes. The college meets the requirements with respect to admission and attendance registers. The college has devised a three-year accessibility improvement plan in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010. Because the building work is not completed, a fire safety report is not yet available, although a visit from the fire service took place on the day of the inspection. The building standards compliance certificate confirming the safety of the premises has not yet been issued.

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

- ensure that the completed premises and accommodation present no health and safety risks to students, staff and other users, in line with the requirements of the college's health and safety policy (paragraph 11)
- obtain a report from the fire authority for the completed premises and accommodation, and ensure that the building standards compliance certificate is issued (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met in this standard, as evident from the college's policy for safe recruitment and its implementation. The college has ensured that all required checks have been completed for staff and governors. The college has compiled an appropriate single central register of the checks on the suitability of staff and governors and all the checks have been suitably recorded. At present, the college has no plans to use supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities if the need arises. The college is aware of its duty to inform the Disclosure and Barring Service in regard to any person who is not suitable to work with children.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The college is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. It is to be located in a state-of-the art four-storey building that was previously a cotton mill. There are

sufficient classrooms, with suitable lighting, heating and ventilation. Water supplies meet requirements, with provision for hot water temperatures to be regulated. There is an appropriate area allocated for students who might become ill. There are sufficient toilet facilities for the proposed number of boys and girls and also for staff. There are to be labelled sources of drinking water. The college has its own hall for indoor sports but will also use a sport centre and a playing field close by. The college building will include changing rooms and showers. There is adequate provision for outdoor play on the site. At present, the building is being refurbished and the work is being overseen by the Department's delivery agent, the Education Funding Agency. Work on the refurbishment of the premises is likely to be completed ahead of the proposed opening date on 29 August 2013. The Department will continue to monitor the progress of the building directly with the agency.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. The college can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to matters outlined above.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 800

Recommended age range: 14-19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.