

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

School name	Leeds Jewish Free School
DfE registration number	383/
Unique reference number (URN)	1425
Inspection number	422320
Inspection dates	2 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Sheila Boyle

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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

Leeds Jewish Free School plans to operate from premises being constructed on the same site as Brodetsky Primary school in the Alwoodley area of Leeds. It is anticipated that phase one of the project, the refurbishment of an existing building, will be ready for September with additional new buildings being completed for 2014. Plans for the buildings were seen as well as the proposed sites. The school plans to open on 2 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered as a designated faith school with half of its places reserved for Jewish students. It plans to admit, in its first year, up to 25 boys and girls in the age range 11-12 years, rising to a maximum of 210 in the age range 11-18 over a seven-year period. The school intends to admit some students with special educational needs. The school aims to offer high quality education to its students within a strong Orthodox Jewish ethos irrespective of their faith, specific needs or family financial capacity.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The regulations are likely to be met by the planning seen although implementation cannot be checked until the school opens. The school aims to develop an ethos of respect and understanding and give students a clear model of what is right and wrong. The secular curriculum will include lessons in personal, social and health education (PSHE) aimed at the development of self-awareness, self-confidence, the acceptance of responsibility for behaviour and an understanding of how to make a contribution to the local and wider community. Policies relating to citizenship aim to develop students' knowledge of public institutions and services in England, different religions and cultures, democracy and the rule of civil law. Social development will be promoted through group activities in school, work experience, visitors and visits off the site. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies aim to promote good relationships that allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way. There is no evidence that political views will be presented in anything other than a balanced way.

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

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence and discussion with the headteacher indicates that a small number of regulations are unlikely to be met. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. The headteacher has been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Staff appointed, have had relevant training in child protection and the designated child protection officer has the required training. A first aid policy is in place and several members of staff have completed first aid training. An appropriate educational visits policy includes requirements for risk assessments to be completed. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety but premises and fire safety risk assessments have not yet been completed owing to the fact that the refurbishment of the block for phase one is not yet complete. A fire safety report from the fire authority is not available. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The plans seen show that the school will have suitable access for disabled persons and a three-year plan to increase accessibility has been completed.

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

- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. Evidence that all the required checks have taken place is maintained on a single central register. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not in the first instance intend to employ supply staff, but it is aware of its responsibilities relating to any future use of supply staff and also of its duty to refer any person who is deemed unsuitable for working with children to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Plans indicate that the premises are likely to meet almost all of the regulations. The plans seen for the accommodation, including for the phase one building currently being refurbished, indicate that there will be sufficient classrooms and washrooms initially for 25 students aged 11-12 years, rising to a maximum of 210 in the age

range 11-18 over a seven-year period. The plans show provision for separate washrooms for boys, girls and staff and an administration block. The plans indicate that there will be suitable supplies of mains electricity and water including hot water at a controlled temperature in washrooms. Suitable central heating, air conditioning and ventilation are planned. Acoustic conditions and lighting are likely to meet requirements. There are suitable plans for the provision of drinking water and for the medical examination and short-term care of sick students. The plans indicate that a secure space will be set aside at the rear of the building for students to play outdoors. There are plans for suitable changing and shower facilities for older students. The school is aware that it must install suitable external lighting in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the school premises, but the lighting is not clearly planned.

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

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

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 school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by the DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the matters detailed above.**

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the planned building works have been completed.