

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	Oasis Academy Silvertown
DfE registration number	3164006 (Not yet assigned)
Unique reference number (URN)	1411082
Inspection number	446916
Inspection dates	25 July 2014
Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher

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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 Oasis Academy Silvertown will be a Free School and is to be located in Britannia Village in the London Borough of Newham. The school is sponsored by, and part of, Oasis Community Learning and is due to open on the 1 September 2014. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 600 male and female students in the age range 11 to 16 years. It will admit up to 90 students in Year 7 in its first year. There are 83 students registered for enrolment at present. Four of these students have a statement of special educational needs. The school will provide specialist support for those students who do not speak English at home. The school aims to encourage students to: 'Think Global, Act Local'. This is in addition to the values and ethos of Oasis Community 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 behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of personal decisions. The school's policy for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students sets out a vision for students to be equipped to take their place in society as valued, economically viable and responsible citizens. It plans to provide a rich and balanced educational environment catering for the whole child academically, vocationally, socially, morally, spiritually, physically, emotionally and environmentally. This is enshrined in the school development plan.

The school has clearly defined themes to support and develop the skills needed to improve academic performance and plans to deliver these through its 'Home Group' programme.. In addition, there are plans for this to be backed up by the 'LIFE' assembly programme, which is holistic and aims to develop each student as an individual.

The citizenship, personal, social and health education, and enrichment programmes plan to encourage students to respect diversity of beliefs and opinions, developing the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, developing respect for the needs,

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

interests and feelings of others and providing links with the world of work and the wider community. The citizenship programme is also aimed at developing students' insights into the working of the civil law, public institutions and services in England. Students will have further opportunities through the 'Silvertown Six', which will enable them to visit universities, organisations, companies and charities in the surrounding area, as well as being involved in a sustained volunteering programme with local partners.

Students will take part in a number of community enterprises and will be integral to the building and development of the 'Oasis Silvertown Hub'. There are links with South Africa and Belgium through the Oasis Global partnership.

The religious education curriculum, called 'Reimagining RE', explores a variety of issues and questions from a multi-faith perspective; it is designed to build a broad-minded and open-hearted community, where each person is valued and where the fundamental questions of life, which religions and beliefs address, are explored thoughtfully.

The Academy Council has ensured that the planned curriculum, including provision for personal development, is free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented. Detailed guidance on these matters is included in the staff handbook.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all of the regulations are likely 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. Robust procedures also include a supervision rota to ensure the safety of students throughout the school day. Senior staff have been trained in safer recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Providers and dates have been identified for the training of all staff in child protection and the training has been booked for early September 2014, before the school opens, using both the local authority and on-line training. The designated person for child protection has been trained to the required level and will also provide ongoing training in-house. Staff have been identified to take responsibility for first aid, and a three-day first aid course has been booked for August 2014. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety. Premises and fire safety risk assessments have not yet been completed, but are firmly booked so that requirements are likely to be met. A visit from the fire officer has been booked and fire training for staff has been arranged. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's equalities plan makes a strong commitment to providing equality of access for disabled students and the required three-year plan to increase accessibility has been completed.

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 indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. These are recorded on a suitable single central register. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff or contractual staff, but is aware of and is therefore likely to meet its responsibilities should supply staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised and discussed with the headteacher. The school is to be located on a temporary site in the first year in modular classrooms. This will provide suitable accommodation for the Year 7 students.

The plans for the temporary accommodation demonstrate compliance with all the independent school regulations for premises and accommodation. There will be sufficient classrooms and play space for the planned number on roll. They will be appropriately structured and furnished with suitable lighting and acoustic conditions to meet the needs of students, including space for small group tuition and counselling. Play space includes supervised use of an adjacent public multi-use games area. All requirements for toilets, water supply, including labelled drinking water, a medical room and securely fenced boundaries are included in the plans. Where specialist space is needed to provide the secondary curriculum, arrangements have been made to make sure that students can access the facilities for a broad and balanced curriculum. Examples include partnerships with Newham Music Trust, University of East London, Rosetta Arts, The Crystal and Jamie's Ministry of Food.

The planning application for a permanent site is to be submitted in the coming academic year. The Education Funding Agency, the Department for Education's (DfE) delivery agent, is managing the legal purchasing process on behalf of the academy sponsor. The DfE will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the agency.

The inspector advised the headteacher that, when the premises are complete, the academy should apply for a material change visit.

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 regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 90 (for the first year 2014/2015) and subsequently when premises are complete, 600).

Recommended age range: 11 to 12 years (for first year 2014/2015) and subsequently 11 to 16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.