

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

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School name	Southwark Free School
DfE registration number	999/1282
Unique reference number (URN)	1282
Inspection number	404002
Inspection dates	31 July 2012
Reporting inspector	David Young

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## **Context of the school**

Southwark Free School, sponsored by the Southwark Free School Trust, is to be accommodated, for two years, in the premises of Ledbury Community Centre, in the London Borough of Southwark. It will then transfer to nearby purpose-built premises at 399 Rotherhithe New Road. A two-year lease has been agreed with the current trustees of Ledbury Hall and minor refurbishment work is due to take place before the school admits pupils on 5 September 2012. The school has applied for registration for up to 420 pupils in the age range of four to 11 years of age. It plans to open in September 2012 with an intake of 30 pupils into a Reception class. The school will operate an inclusive admission policy, including pupils with special educational needs. The school's aims include the belief that, 'by creating a challenging, secure, happy environment that develops resilience, confidence and independence in our pupils, we will support and encourage each individual to succeed'.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations in this standard are likely to be met by the planning; implementation could not be checked. The school's written policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development sets out the aspirations that: pupils will develop a 'can-do' attitude to learning; they will build positive relationships by developing respect for themselves and others; and the school will be at the heart of the local community. Each strand of personal development is defined in a way which demonstrates the school's commitment to develop in pupils: a sense of right and wrong; an understanding of the consequences of their actions; and their social skills, through working and socialising with others from different backgrounds. There is a stated intention to enable pupils to understand the cultural influences which have shaped their own heritage, together with an awareness and understanding of and respect for diversity. The school's plans for personal, social and health education include pupil safety committees; themes on police and criminal behaviour; inspiring excellence awards; educational visits to concerts, theatres and arts projects; community relationships awards; a school council; and annual volunteering commitments. These, together with a range of curriculum projects, demonstrate the school's intention that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development should be prominent features of pupils' personal development.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The planning is likely to meet all regulatory requirements in this standard, although implementation could not be seen. The school has prepared suitable policies for safeguarding, behaviour management and the prevention of bullying. Similarly, suitable policies and procedures for first aid and for off-site visits have been

prepared. The school's recruitment procedures include all the required checks on the suitability of staff and proprietors. All policies have regard for the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance and provide appropriate guidance for consistent implementation by all staff. The headteacher is trained to the required level to act as the school's designated person for child protection and has update training arranged to take place before the school opens. Training in child protection and first aid will be provided for all staff before the school opens. There are suitable arrangements already in place to ensure the pupils' health and safety and fire safety on the premises. These procedures are to be adopted and developed, together with existing caretaking staff, to meet the needs of the school. Arrangements are in place for a visit by the local fire officer to update the fire safety risk assessment and to agree evacuation procedures before the school opens. Admission and attendance registers are being installed on the school's commercial information management system. The headteacher has commenced an equality access plan which will be confirmed once the refurbishment work has been completed.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The planning for safe recruitment and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. An appropriate single central register of checks has been prepared. Details of all required checks for currently appointed staff and trustees are entered in the register and additional entries are being made as information is received.

### **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

The premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. The temporary accommodation for the school is in a Community Hall, leased to the trust for two years. The scope of minor refurbishment work has been agreed and is out to tender at present. It is anticipated that the refurbishment will take about two weeks and that this will be completed before the school is due to open. The refurbishment consists of re-modelling of toilets, the installation of a kitchen to the standard required for the preparation of school meals, and internal redecoration. In addition, the external area is to be securely fenced to provide a suitable play area and space for the extension of the school's curriculum, particularly for children in the Reception class. The current premises are in a suitable condition and provide sufficient space for teaching up to 60 pupils, including access to the external learning area. The Department's delivery agent, the Funding Agency for Schools, is overseeing the work and will be able to provide monitoring reports to the DfE as work proceeds.

A material change visit will be required to inspect the proposed new premises before the projected opening date of September 2014.

### **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**

Is registration recommended?

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

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 60 (in the temporary premises)

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): n/a

Recommended age range: 4 to 11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a

**The temporary premises, to be occupied until September 2014, are suitable for up to 60 pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1. A material change visit will be required to inspect the proposed new premises due for construction by September 2014. At that point an extension of the total number of pupils to 420 can be considered.**