

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of studio schools

School name	The Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering
DfE registration number	999/1246
Unique Reference Number (URN)	1246
Inspection number	403965
Inspection dates	11 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Fatiha Maitland

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Context of the school

The proposed The Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering is situated in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The school plans to open on 3 September 2012 and will occupy some of the premises which are currently owned by North Hertfordshire College. The studio school will use the former Stevenage Skills Centre to teach engineering. The fixtures and fittings in this building are mostly new, ensuring that the premises are suitable for educational use. For its first year, the studio school will also use some of North Hertfordshire College's classrooms, science laboratories and information and communication technology (ICT) suites while additional permanent buildings are constructed adjacent to the former Skills Centre. The studio school is owned by North Hertfordshire Studio School Trust, which consists of five trustees.

The studio school plans to admit up to 400 boys and girls, aged between 14 and 19 years. Disabled students and those with special educational needs will be admitted if the studio school judges that their specific learning needs can be met. The studio school plans to make provision for students who speak English as an additional language. The studio school has no specific religious affiliation. One of the studio school's aims is 'to inspire students with a thirst for learning, a drive to succeed and a curiosity to innovate and experiment'.

On this visit, the inspector carried out a scrutiny of documentation and had discussions with the management of the studio school in one of the offices situated in North Hertfordshire College. The inspector and the management of the studio school visited the temporary premises in North Hertfordshire College, the former Stevenage Skills Centre and the site of the new studio school. The inspector also had access to health and safety policies and procedures for North Hertfordshire College. The inspector thanked North Hertfordshire College health and safety managers for their full co-operation.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The studio school management team provided sufficient evidence to indicate that the planned provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is likely to meet all the regulations, but implementation could not be checked. The planned activities in personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE), religious studies, tutorial sessions and regular assemblies based on 'Learning 4 Life' programme will help students distinguish right from wrong and respect the law. Students will have opportunities to empathise with people who are different from themselves, to challenge offending behaviour and discrimination assertively, and to take the initiative in giving and receiving.

Learning about equality, diversity and multi-cultural Britain, together with taking part

in 'Around the World Week' and 'World Food Day', will enable students to develop tolerance, appreciation and respect for other faiths and cultures around them. Visits to places of interest, support from visitors to the studio school and learning about parliament, democracy and the study of institutions in United Kingdom and Europe will provide students with appropriate opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of public institutions and services in England and beyond.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Four regulations are not likely to be met. Documentary evidence indicates that other regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be checked as the studio school was not operating. The studio school has prepared written policies to promote good behaviour among students, with clear reference to community ground rules and a set of rewards and sanctions. This is well supported by the anti-bullying policy, which has clear procedures how to combat bullying, including homophobic and transphobic bullying. There are suitable procedures to assess and manage safety risks related to educational visits.

The studio school has prepared a comprehensive policy to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at the school; this contains all the required information and is well supported by the studio school's safer recruitment policy and procedures. All members of the studio school staff, including the designated child protection officer, have undertaken the appropriate level of child protection training, as required. Discussions with the health and safety managers of North Hertfordshire College indicate that safer recruitment procedures are robust. All College staff, including the child protection officers have received the relevant child protection training and know what to do should a concern arise.

The studio school has devised a suitable health and safety policy. Risk assessments on North Hertfordshire College premises are in place. However, the studio school has yet to carry out the risk assessment on the new premises to minimise risks. Fire evacuation policy and procedures are in place. Fire drills and fire risk assessments on North Hertfordshire College premises are undertaken, but the studio school has yet to ensure that there is a satisfactory level of fire safety for the new premises to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The studio school has clear plans to carry out the necessary risk assessments, including those on premises and resources, for when the studio school is ready to receive students.

The studio school will use North Hertfordshire College first aid facilities on both sites from September 2012. The studio school has prepared a first aid policy, but it does not provide sufficient guidance for staff on hygiene procedures in case of spillage of blood or body fluids, how medical conditions are identified and treated, or on what levels of injury are treated on site or in hospital. The studio school will train most of its members of staff in first aid before the studio school opens in September 2013. The studio school has an admission register and attendance registers ready for use. North Hertfordshire College is inclusive and its three-year accessibility plan meets the

requirements of the Equality Act 2010. However, the studio school has not completed a three-year plan to increase access to the premises, curriculum and information in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

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

- carry out risk assessments on the new premises to ensure students' health and safety which have regard to the DfES guidance (paragraph 11)
- ensure that there is a satisfactory level of fire safety for the new premises, identified by its risk assessment under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13)
- ensure that the first aid policy provides sufficient guidance for staff on hygiene procedures in case of spillage of blood or body fluid and how medical conditions are identified and treated or on what levels of injury are treated on site or in hospital and ensure that there are certified first aiders in the new premises when it opens in September 2013 (paragraph 14)
- complete a three-year plan to increase access to the premises, curriculum and information in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The studio school is likely to meet all of the regulations related to the suitability of the proprietor and staff. The studio school has conducted all the required checks on members of staff to ensure their suitability to work with children. All the checks on the proprietorial body are completed. The studio school has also established a single central register and recorded in this all the required information on all members of staff and the proprietorial body.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The studio school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The scrutiny of the school's floor plan, discussions with the management team and observations made during the visit indicate that the accommodation and premises are fit for purpose. The studio school will benefit from the specialist science laboratories and information and communication technology suites available.

The studio school has ensured that there is a suitable designated area for students to go to when they are unwell. The current provision of toilets and washbasins is suitable for staff and the proposed number of students, including those who have disabilities. Students will have access to a suitable outdoor area in which to play safely.

The funding for building the studio school has been approved by the Department. The Education Funding Agency, which is the Department's Delivery Agency, is

managing the process of acquiring the premises on behalf of the Trust. The Department will continue to monitor the progress of the premises directly with the Agency.

Provision of information

The studio school's provision of information for parents, carers and others is likely to meet most, but not all, of the regulations. The school is in the process of updating its prospectus and its website. However, at this stage, the studio school does not make all the required information available to parents, carers and others.

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

- make available to parents of students and parents of prospective students, and on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State, or an independent inspectorate:
 - particulars of the school's policy on and arrangements for admissions, discipline and exclusions
 - particulars of educational and welfare provision for students with statements of special educational needs and for students for whom English is an additional language
 - particulars of the policies relating to bullying, health and safety, the promotion of good behaviour, and sanctions adopted in the event of students misbehaving
 - particulars of the arrangements for tackling bullying, and for promoting students' health and safety on the school premises and on educational visits
 - particulars of academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations
 - details of the complaints procedure adopted by the school, together with details of the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year (paragraph 24(1)(b))
- publish its safeguarding policy on the school's website, or where no such website exists, the school should send a copy to parents of students, and of prospective students on request (paragraph 24(1)(c)).

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The studio school's complaints policy and procedures are likely to meet all the regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

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

- carry out the risk assessment on the new premises and resources to ensure students' health and safety which have regard to the DfES guidance (paragraph 11)
- assure itself that there is a satisfactory level of fire safety for the new premises, identified by its risk assessment under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13)
- ensure that the first aid policy provides sufficient guidance for staff on hygiene procedures in case of spillage of blood or body fluid and how medical conditions are identified and treated or on what levels of injury are treated on site or in hospital (paragraph 14)
- complete a three-year plan to increase access to the premises, curriculum and information in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- make available to parents of students and parents of prospective students, and on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State, or an independent inspectorate:
 - particulars of the school's policy on and arrangements for admissions, discipline and exclusions
 - particulars of educational and welfare provision for students with statements of special educational needs and for students for whom English is an additional language
 - particulars of the policies relating to bullying, health and safety, the promotion of good behaviour, and sanctions adopted in the event of students misbehaving
 - particulars of the arrangements for tackling bullying, and for promoting students' health and safety on the school premises and on educational visits
 - particulars of academic performance during the preceding school year, including the results of any public examinations.
 - details of the complaints procedure adopted by the school, together with details of the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year (paragraph 24(1)(b))

- publish its safeguarding policy on the school's website, or where no such website exists, the school should send a copy to parents of students, and of prospective students on request (paragraph 24(1)(c)).

Recommended number of day pupils: 400 students

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): N/A

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A