

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

---

School name	Harris Aspire Academy
DfE registration number	305/1103
Unique reference number (URN)	139829
Inspection number	422366
Inspection dates	25 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Scott

## **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.<sup>1</sup>

## **Context of the school**

Harris Aspire Academy is a free school which will provide alternative provision for students for whom attendance in mainstream education is not an appropriate option at this point in their school career. The school will be located in a former sports centre, consisting of a sports hall, gym, fitness suite and dance studio, together with three classrooms located on the first floor. The site is currently owned by the Harris Academy Bromley, located opposite. From September, Aspire will take over the ownership of the space they occupy, in accordance with the Department's funding agreement. The building is currently undergoing some refurbishment and re-modelling, and is due to be completed by the end of August. The school is sponsored by the Harris Federation and is due to open on 4 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 90 boys and girls from ages 11 to 18. It will admit students aged 12 to 13 and 16 to 17 in its first year. At present there are 12 students registered for enrolment, none of whom has a statement of special educational needs, but all are on the register for special educational needs. For September 2013, it is intended that Aspire Academy will only admit students at Key Stages 3 and 5. Negotiations are already underway to acquire a suitable site for Key Stage 4 students. The school's mission will be focused on 'achievement and excellence', and its aim will be to ensure that all students 'return to mainstream education or join the world of work, successfully and with new aspirations, attitudes and skills'.

## **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 specialisms will be in oracy and enterprise, and 'will be focused on ensuring all students have great communication skills' together with 'an enterprising "can do" attitude to being successful in life'. It is intended that, together, these specialisms 'will open doors to a wide range of successful pathways'. Each student will follow a unique programme that will be based around the school's ethos that is designed to build 'resilience, reflectiveness, resourcefulness and reciprocity'. These attributes are reflected in the planned personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, which will give students the necessary skills to be socially adept in their

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

learning; develop positive attitudes for success; find innovative ways to solve problems or resolve challenging situations and to know their own strengths and weaknesses. The behaviour for learning policy aims to enable students to develop the necessary skills to 'learn and reach high standards, and to take responsibility for their own behaviour'. It also gives details as to how the academy's specialisms of oracy and enterprise will contribute to 'good learning behaviour'. The school will provide opportunities for students to work in partnership with the local community, by undertaking joint projects with other academies within the federation and having involvement with members of the local emergency services.

The school calendar gives details of the planned programme of assemblies, across all faith and non-faith groups. This, alongside the citizenship programme, is intended to provide all students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens by appreciating and respecting the diversity of faiths, traditions and cultures globally and in the local community. The citizenship programme will help students to develop an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England. The curriculum policy gives details to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

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

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safe recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. For those members of staff and governors, still to be appointed, dates have been identified and specialist national trainers have been booked, to provide the required training in child protection and safeguarding for all staff before the school opens, so that requirements will be met. The school has prepared all the required policy documents, including those for safeguarding and child protection, recruitment and selection, behaviour for learning, anti-bullying, first aid and medicines. Suitable policies have also been prepared for health and safety, evacuation and planning educational visits. Risk assessments have been completed, including for fire safety. Visits from the fire authority and from the local authority health and safety adviser have been arranged. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year equality plan provides details to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

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

All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are recorded in a single central register. The school does not intend to employ agency staff but, should the need arise, additional staff will be sourced from within the school federation, all of whom have already undergone vetting checks. The school will ensure that the checks are correct and will record them on its register.

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

A tour of the site and scrutiny of the architect's plans confirm that the refurbishment and some re-modelling of the site are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Orders for furniture, fixtures, fittings and resources have been placed (orders seen) to provide an appropriate learning environment designed to promote students' practical and vocational skills. Heating, lighting and air-conditioning systems are likely to meet requirements. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the school, and there is a lift to the first floor. There are sufficient washrooms, including two which will be equipped for disabled users, one on each floor. These have a regulated hot water supply. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to students. The site has sufficient outside areas for recreation and physical education, and is suitably equipped with showers and changing facilities. A suitable site has been identified for the installation of a medical room. This will be located on the first floor, equipped with a hand basin, with washrooms located nearby.

## **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

## **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The procedures are likely to meet all the 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.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 90

Recommended age range: 11–18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

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