

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

School name	Central Bedfordshire University Technical College (UTC)
DfE registration number	999/1237
Unique reference number (URN)	1237
Inspection number	403956
Inspection dates	26 June 2012
Reporting inspector	Deborah Sanders

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Context of the school

Central Bedfordshire University Technical College (UTC) is located in Houghton Regis in Bedfordshire. It occupies the former site of Kingsland Skills Centre and intends to admit students aged from the ages of 14 to 19 years. It is sponsored by the University of Bedfordshire, Cranfield University and RWDI Amemos (consulting engineers and scientists) and has several industry partners. The college has applied to be registered to admit up to 600 boys and girls. It will admit students from the surrounding schools into Year 10, for which there will be limited places per school. The site is being opened in three phases with phase one due to open on 3 September 2012 with 200 students. The college will be non-selective and will include students who are disabled or who have special educational needs. This inspection visit, including scrutiny of documentation and discussions with the Principal Designate and the project manager was conducted on the proposed college site.

The school's vision for its students is to enable them to 'strive for excellence in engineering, product design, manufacturing and science, to work with like-minded colleagues in an inspirational institution which will be supported by expert staff and industrial colleagues, and to become confident positive adults who will be active in shaping their own future whether that is industry or university'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

All the regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen as the college is not yet operating. The college's aims and values, together with its spiritual, moral, social, health and citizenship programmes, put students' personal development and academic progress at the centre of its work. There are high expectations for all students, and the college's behaviour and anti-bullying policies fully support and encourage an understanding of right and wrong. The focus is clearly on students accepting responsibility for their actions. The college places a high emphasis on self-study skills, providing a range of extended projects and vocational awards, and the development of independence, co-operation, innovation and motivation. Student leadership will also be a key element of college life: this will be developed through students' involvement in activities such as the student council, learning voice and ambassador roles. Students' personal, social and health education will promote their understanding of citizenship and the roles of individuals within the wider community.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All the regulations are likely to be met. Implementation could not be seen as the college is not yet operating. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, behaviour management, anti-

bullying and first aid. The behaviour policy includes the sanctions to be applied if students do not follow the college's code of conduct. There are appropriate guidelines for how to deal with incidents of bullying, should they arise. Dates have been identified for the training of all staff in child protection and for the designated person for child protection to undertake higher level training prior to the college admitting students. The college's safer recruitment policy is appropriate and the required checks on staff and governors are being made.

The college has suitable systems and procedures in place for health and safety and for ensuring that students are safe while in college and off site. The fire risk assessment has been completed: the local authority fire officer has made no recommendations and has given advice on how to evacuate the first floor for disabled staff and students. Key staff have been identified to carry out first aid and training dates have been set. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically, with paper copies available in each class room. The college is committed to enabling equality of access to all aspects of college life and the building is fully accessible.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All but two of the regulations are likely to be met. Checks on the identity and qualifications of staff together with enhanced disclosures made on them by the Criminal Records Bureau are being undertaken; the single central record is being correctly populated as these are received, with the exception of the recording of the checks made on staff qualifications, where appropriate. Members of the governing body are not yet listed on the single central register; all the required checks are made although the single central register has not yet been populated with the relevant information.

In summary:

- ensure that the single central records shows the checks made on the qualifications of staff, where appropriate (paragraph 22(3))
- ensure that the single central register contains all the required information about the checks made on each member of the governing body (paragraph 22(6)).

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations. The college is located on a former college site which has been completely refurbished. Full access to the site was possible during the inspection. The college will provide a three phase opening with phase one due to open in September 2012, phase two in October 2012 and phase three, which is a new build, in March 2013. There is a large engineering block and exceptionally spacious classroom areas which will open as phase one. The building

will contain all new fittings and fixtures. The Principal Designate was able to demonstrate through plans and samples how each area would look when completed. A full discussion took place with regard to layout of each area and how the facility would be used. The classroom space is light and airy and with good ventilation. There is a suitable number of washroom facilities on each floor with separate accessible facilities, and a suitable room for students who are feeling unwell. There is a large kitchen and preparation area which leads on to a dining area and library. The college has two suitable outside areas for play and recreation and two playing fields. The buildings and access to the grounds are fully secure and an electronic swipe card system will be used to enter the main building and all classrooms.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the 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**

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

- for each member of staff appointed on or after 1 May 2007, ensure that the register shows that checks were made of relevant qualifications, if appropriate, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained (paragraph 22(3))
- in relation to each member of a body of persons named as the proprietor appointed on or after 1 May 2007, the register shows whether the checks referred to in 21(6)(b) were made, the date they were made and the date on which the resulting certificate was obtained. Checks required include:
 - an enhanced CRB check and, where requested by the Secretary of State, is countersigned by the Secretary of State
 - the individual's identity and their right to work in the United Kingdom and
 - in the case of any person for whom, by reason of living or having lived outside the United Kingdom, further checks in regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State (paragraph 22(6)).

Recommended number of day pupils: 600

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable