

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of free schools

School name	Barrow 1618 Church of England Free School
DfE registration number	999/1231
Unique reference number (URN)	1231
Inspection number	404696
Inspection dates	14 June 2012
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090080.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2012



Context of the school

The sponsors, 'Barrow 1618 The School Company', seek to establish a free school providing primary education for up to 70 boys and girls aged between four and eleven years in the premises currently housing Barrow Church of England (Aided) Primary school. The local authority will cease to maintain the existing school on 31 August 2012. The free school plans to open on 1 September 2012 with 35 pupils on roll. The school does not propose to make any specialist provision for disabled pupils or those who have special educational needs. The Principal Designate took up post in April 2012 in order to prepare for the opening of the free school, and staff appointments are currently being made. The free school's governing body is established and, together with the Principal Designate, is working with the existing school's headteacher, governing body and local authority to ensure a smooth transition for pupils.

Barrow lies between Much Wenlock and Broseley in open countryside near to the new town of Telford. The Willey Park Estate owns most of the surrounding agricultural land and homes, as it did in 1618 when a school was first established in the village. The free school will retain its church links and, at the behest of the Hereford Diocese, has teamed up with another church school in nearby Coalbrookdale. Children come from the immediate area and further afield, including Much Wenlock and Telford. The free school's aim is to 'to create a lively, inspiring school where children can excel in a supportive, caring environment with a strong Christian ethos'. The proprietorial body intend to provide an innovative curriculum for pupils, centred on learning opportunities presented by the natural environment. They propose that the free school will make its facilities available to other pupils living locally, including before- and after-school care from 8am until 6pm each school day.

The accommodation comprises a single-storey Victorian building now used as a school hall and office accommodation, together with a demountable building providing three classrooms, washrooms for pupils and adults, administration and other rooms. Cooked lunchtime meals are brought from a nearby school and served in the hall. Beyond the grassed playing fields, the free school has secured a lease on a field currently used for cutting hay. The proprietorial body is working with an existing local provider to offer nursery education. This will not be managed by the proprietorial body and will, therefore, be subject to separate inspection.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The free school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the free school is not yet operating. Backed by a policy and schemes for personal, social and health education and citizenship, the free school's

proposed provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is appropriate. The free school intends to follow the Leicester agreed syllabus for religious education and to offer pupils a wide range of social and cultural activities, including visits, to promote their development and understanding of the arts, public services and institutions in England. The free school's policies and procedures promote high expectations of pupils' behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and respect for others. Pupils will have many opportunities to develop their confidence and self-esteem through academic and outdoor learning, and as active members of the free school community. Respect for the law and for the differing views and opinions of others, including those of different faiths and cultures, is to be promoted additionally through links with schools in nearby towns and cities.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The free school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the free school is not yet operating. The free school's safeguarding policy reflects the guidance provided by the Secretary of State and includes specific references to the local safeguarding board. The designated person for child protection has attended and completed training at the required higher level. The school plans to provide other staff with appropriate training in safeguarding procedures as part of their induction training so that requirements will be met. The free school has suitable policy for recruiting staff which takes account of safer recruitment guidelines. The Principal Designate and Chair of the Governing Body have undertaken training in safer recruitment practice. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed.

The free school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in the school and when on visits, meet requirements. A written record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on pupils for serious misbehaviour. The existing school complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the free school has adopted the existing school's three-year plan to improve access to the curriculum, premises and information. The Principal Designate holds a current first aid certificate and it is planned to train all staff in first aid procedures as part of their induction process. The first aid policy provides explicit guidance on dealing with body fluid spillages and when to call for expert assistance. The free school is considering the use of an electronic database to provide admission and attendance registers that reflect requirements but in the meantime has paper versions in place in readiness for when the school opens.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are made about staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including enhanced disclosures obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau, and these are

recorded on the single central register. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness, are complete for those already in post and in the process of being completed for those recently appointed. The school obtains written references on all applicants. The Chair of the Proprietorial Body has been checked by the Secretary of State.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All mains services are connected to the school and are functioning correctly. The premises are suitably maintained and are clean and tidy. The standards of decoration, lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring meet requirements. There is suitable access, including for people using wheelchairs, and the exit routes in the case of emergency are well signed. The kitchen area, from which school meals are served, is appropriately equipped and maintained. Classrooms are of a suitable size and appropriately furnished. There are sufficient washroom facilities for staff and for the number of pupils sought. There is a room designated for pupils who are ill which is appropriately equipped. A suitable playground area is available, together with good-sized playing fields. There is a suitably fenced outside area leading from the classroom used by children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. An adjoining field has been leased to provide for the proposed development of outdoor learning. A forest school area is provided in adjacent woodland.

The premises are secure and the playground and playing field are securely fenced from the car park and adjoining land. The proposed partnership with the nursery provider does not impact adversely on the free school's arrangements for pupils' health, safety and welfare. However, the principal entrance to the former school house, which is now privately owned, opens directly onto the school playground and it shares a second vehicular access to the school, which is gated at the road entrance. The current owners of this property have agreed that all the adult members of the household will voluntarily undergo enhanced checks by the Criminal Records Bureau at the free school's expense: this process is underway and is likely to be completed by the time the school opens. The proprietorial body has acted with due diligence in this matter.

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 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: 70

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

Recommended age range: 4–11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a.