

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

School name	Bolingbroke Academy
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1235
Inspection number	403954
Inspection dates	6 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

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Context of the school

Bolingbroke Academy was founded in response to a sustained campaign by local parents and carers for a new non-selective, non-denominational secondary school in the Battersea area. The school is located in the former Bolingbroke Hospital, which is undergoing refurbishment to turn it into an educational establishment. Bolingbroke Academy plans to open as a mixed 11 to 18 school in September 2012 with provision, in its first year, for 120 places in Year 7, rising to 800 places when fully open. Students will join the school from five local community primary schools close to the academy. The Principal, 13 full-time teachers and a part-time teacher, as well as support staff, have already been appointed to start in September 2012.

The school's motto embodies the belief that perseverance, self-discipline and determination will enable students and staff to reach their full potential. The school aims to offer a 'rigorous academic education' that will prepare students for university. There will be a special focus on mathematics and music, with all students expected to play a musical instrument confidently and to take part in school ensemble performances. Partnerships with parents and carers will be a high priority and the school intends to establish a parent board to involve parents and carers directly in the academy's development.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements for this standard are likely to be met, subject to the implementation of the planned curriculum. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural education programme is very well planned to encourage students to be reflective, increase levels of self-awareness, consolidate their sense of responsibility, increase their understanding of health issues and support them in making decisions about their future.

The school's detailed and carefully formulated programme includes opportunities to engage with other cultures and religions, as well as focusing on areas such as law, justice, voting, media, censorship and the European Union. There is a suitable emphasis on personal safety, healthy living and financial management. This is supported by an extensive extra-curricular programme including an intention that all students will be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The requirements for this standard are likely to be met. All policies relating to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are written and are compliant with current requirements, subject to implementation. Two senior members of staff have received training to be the school's designated child protection officers. All staff will receive

training in child protection and safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening in September so that requirements will be met. The school has already identified three first aiders, with plans for additional members of staff to gain qualifications. The school operates a safe recruitment policy to ensure that all those working in the academy are suitable to do so. The policy has been rigorously applied to the appointment of all staff.

The school has in place detailed policies and procedures to assess and manage health and safety risks around the school site. These include a health and safety policy, a safeguarding policy and an anti-bullying policy which confirms the school's high expectations in terms of student achievement, progress and behaviour within an ethos of tolerance and respect 'where all students will feel happy, safe and free from bullying and harassment'. A thorough fire risk assessment is supported by evacuation procedures which are carefully formulated for each phase of the refurbishment. Attendance and admission registers are ready for use. No students requiring special access arrangements are expected in September, although the premises are already adapted to fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

Detailed checks (including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks and checks against DfE list 99) are carried out on all potential employees with references subsequently taken up and verified. A single central record is in place which covers all of the required checks for all staff, including directors of the academy. The school does not intend to make use of supply staff in its first year but, should the need arise, appropriate protocols are in place to meet requirements and regulations. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is housed in the former Bolingbroke Hospital which is being sensitively refurbished and modernised to provide excellent learning facilities while preserving the building's historic features. Scrutiny of the architect's plans, discussion with the Principal and a visit to the site confirmed that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in preparation for opening in September 2012. A suitable contingency plan has been drawn up in the event that any of the teaching accommodation is not ready.

Careful consideration has been given to the size of classrooms, the sufficiency of washrooms, medical facilities and security arrangements. There are appropriate arrangements for providing outside recreation space for students to play safely and the building has access for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs including a ramp which is being built to the front entrance. The building is likely to meet the requirements for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor coverings.

Provision of information

The provision meets all the regulations, with necessary information available on the school website and also shared through regular meetings with parents, carers and others. The school website provides a wealth of documentation including the admission policy and the school prospectus. All policies are written and available to parents and carers upon request. The school also intends placing these on the website before the school's planned opening. Half-termly reports to parents and carers on their children's progress and attainment are already scheduled. 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 once the complaints procedure, which is already written, has been published to parents and carers. This is planned to occur before the school opens in September 2012.

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:	800
Recommended age range:	11–18 years
Recommended gender of pupils:	Mixed.