

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

School name	Hackney UTC
DfE registration number	n/a
Unique reference number (URN)	1257
Inspection number	403976
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Reporting inspector	David Young

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Context of the school

The proposed Hackney University Technical College (UTC) is to be located on the site of Hackney Community College, a further education provider, in North London. The UTC also has formal links with the University of East London. The UTC is sponsored by the Community College and is planned to open with an intake of up to 100 students in Year 10, on 3 September 2012. It will occupy refurbished and extended premises which are currently part of the Community College accommodation. The UTC has applied for registration for up to 400 students of mixed gender in the age range 14 to 18 years. The core of the UTC curriculum will be the English Baccalaureate, together with accredited vocational courses in digital technologies and health technologies. The UTC aims to provide 'a curriculum influenced strongly by employers and universities to make sure that students have the best possible chance of a successful future in higher education and/or work'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The college has produced a policy for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This states a recognition that the personal development of students plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. All curriculum areas within the college will contribute to the personal development of students through modelling expected behaviours, enabling students to find acceptance for themselves, learning to differentiate between right and wrong, and understanding the need for rules which promote and reward acceptable behaviour. The policy sets out the strategies through which each aspect of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be supported. An analysis has been completed of some ways in which the strands of personal development will be included in English, languages, history, mathematics, physical education, religious and personal education, science, and the two college specialisms of health technology and digital technology.

The intended impact on students' personal development is illustrated by selected themes from the curriculum. Planned subject themes include international role models; gender issues in employment; the impact of technology on modern culture; poems from other cultures; a variety of religious beliefs and moral dilemmas; the development of teamwork; spiritual reflection on a range of ultimate questions, and rights and responsibilities in modern society. The planning demonstrates a clear commitment to the development of self-esteem and personal responsibility, a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services, and the promotion of tolerance and respect for different cultural traditions.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. All the required policies have been produced and published on the college website. The safeguarding policy sets out the college's approach to safe recruitment which complies with DfE statutory guidance. The policy is cross-referenced to the child protection policy, which includes requirements for staff training at the required levels. The assistant vice-principal is the designated person for child protection and has been booked on a course to update his training at the end of August; the principal is also trained to this level. Training for all staff in line with the requirements of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is planned as part of induction for all staff before the college opens. Policies for the management of behaviour, prevention of bullying, e-safety, first aid and off-site visits have appropriate regard to DfE guidance and set out clear procedures to ensure consistent implementation by all staff. Appropriate rewards and sanctions, together with record-keeping systems, are in place. A designated first aider has been appointed, with up-to-date training; all staff will be trained in basic first aid. The UTC has a service level agreement with the Community College facilities management team; a member of staff of the UTC has been appointed as fire safety coordinator and all staff will be trained in fire safety and evacuation before the college opens. This includes responsibility for all aspects of health and safety, including fire safety, within the premises. A fire risk assessment was completed on the premises prior to refurbishment and this will be updated, and approved by the fire officer once refurbishment is completed. Admission and attendance registers are being compiled electronically on the UTC's management information system. The UTC equalities plan includes a three-year plan to increase accessibility in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The college's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. A single central register has been constructed and details of suitability checks are being entered as staff are appointed. Entries have been completed for the proprietor, the governors and for those staff already appointed; details of checks are added as they are received.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The college is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. The UTC will occupy a three-storey building which has, until recently, been part of the accommodation of the Community College. The accommodation is being refurbished at present and a new extension is being added to the building. Refurbishment and new building work are running to schedule and are expected to be completed before the UTC opens. In any event, sufficient progress is being made with the refurbishment work to ensure sufficient accommodation is available for the intake of

the initial 100 students. The refurbishment will provide a range of general teaching spaces to teach the core subjects of the UTC (those listed in the English Baccalaureate), including science laboratories, together with new specialist facilities to accommodate the specialisms of the UTC, digital and health education. The accommodation will be used exclusively by the UTC staff and students and is secured by controlled entry. The external site includes a dedicated play and recreation area for UTC students, and access to common circulation areas and dining arrangements. Entry to the site is controlled through one entrance and restricted to staff, students and approved visitors. The UTC has firm plans for appropriate supervision of students in the common areas, including exclusive use of dining facilities for a fixed period daily. There are sufficient toilets and washrooms for male and female students, and separate provision for staff. A medical room is appropriately located and equipped to cater for any student who may be ill.

Provision of information

The provision meets all 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. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 400

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

Recommended age range: 14–18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a