

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

School name	Reach Academy Feltham
DfE registration number	To be advised
Unique reference number (URN)	To be advised
Inspection number	403997
Inspection dates	6 June 2012
Reporting inspector	David Scott

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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

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Context of the school

The Reach Academy Feltham plans to open as a mixed, non-denominational all-age school with provision in its first year for 60 places in Reception and 60 places for Year 7. There are 60 Reception pupils and 30 Year 7 on roll at present. For the academic year 2012–13, the school will be located temporarily in a former government building with a view to moving into another building on a permanent site, already acquired. The school aims to provide 850 places when the further new building is refurbished. The Principal, nine full-time and one part-time teachers have already been appointed to start in July.

The school's mission is 'to transform the lives of young people in Feltham' so that they 'will achieve academic success' and have 'an amazing future'. The school aims to offer an 'academic' education that will provide each pupil with the widest possible choice for succeeding in life. There will be a special focus on English and mathematics in order to access all areas of the curriculum. Pro-active partnerships with parents and carers will be a high priority, with planned home visits designed to give parents the necessary tools to support their children.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to the satisfactory implementation of the planned curriculum. The school's intended ethos, based on high standards of behaviour and respect, is reflected in the personal, social, health and economic education programme which actively promotes and develops pupils' character traits, skills and values. This programme will satisfactorily promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development if implemented effectively. Social development will be further promoted by a range of sports clubs. The planned provision clearly emphasises that children will be exposed to new cultural experiences. They will learn about religious diversity through guest speakers from the local community and visits to places of worship. The programme for assemblies ensures that celebration encompassing many faith groups through the arts is carefully woven into the calendar. So, pupils will appreciate traditions and cultures other than their own. A programme of visits and speakers is planned so that pupils can develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All policies relating to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are in place and are compliant with current requirements, subject to implementation. By the end of June two senior members of staff will be trained as the school's designated child protection officers. All staff will receive training in safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening in September so that requirements are met, as noted below. In addition, plans are in place to enable 15 members of staff to gain qualifications in

first aid. The Principal and chair of governors have undertaken the Safer Recruitment training and have rigorously applied best practice principles 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 the behaviour policy which sets out high expectations of how pupils should conduct themselves together with appropriate sanctions and rewards. The temporary premises will undergo some refurbishment during the summer holidays and evacuation procedures, together with the necessary fire checks, are in place. Appropriate attendance and admission registers are ready for use. Being a former government office, the building requires only minor modifications in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The school has an appropriate three-year plan in place to make these improvements.

Staff have not yet received training in safeguarding procedures. The school has provided confirmation that the training will be completed before the school opens, and will send the appropriate evidence to the Department for Education (DfE), so that the requirements will be met in full.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All appointed staff are appropriately vetted and these checks are captured in a single central record which includes volunteers and all members of the governing body. In its first year the school does not intend to employ supply staff but, should the need arise, appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations. All requirements are likely to be met.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A modest programme of refurbishment of the present building over the summer is planned. Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works, together with a visit to the site, confirmed that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September with the initial intake. Careful consideration has been given to the planned installation of washrooms, particularly for children in Reception, so that the school exceeds the required ratio. Provision for the outside area has been carefully planned to include a suitable early years learning zone. Furniture, fixtures and fittings have been tendered in readiness for an order to be placed. These are likely to meet requirements. The building already has access for those with disabilities to the ground floor and the access policy details arrangements should older disabled pupils be admitted to the school. A medical room is planned to be an integral part of the administrative suite and will be suitably equipped. All requirements are likely to be met by the current building. It was not possible to inspect the proposed permanent building as this is occupied by another tenant at present.

Provision of information

The provision meets all the regulations. The school website provides the required information, including the school prospectus. All policies are available on line and hard copies of all documentation will be provided for parents and carers upon request. Half-termly reports to parents and carers on their children's progress are already scheduled in the school calendar.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets 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: 120 pupils in the present premises

Recommended age range: 4 to 19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed.