

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

School name	Rimon Jewish Primary School
DfE registration number	Not yet assigned
Unique reference number (URN)	1278
Inspection number	403998
Inspection dates	16 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Sandra Teacher

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Context of the school

Rimon Jewish Primary School plans to open in September 2012 as a mixed, inclusive, primary school created under the Free Schools Programme. It has been sponsored by the Rimon Trust. It will be a one-form entry school with a cross-communal Jewish ethos that accepts children from across the spectrum of Jewish belief and beyond on an equal basis.

It is sited in a residential area of Golders Green in Barnet and will provide for pupils from the surrounding neighbourhood. The plans for the new school building have been approved by the local authority council, and the work has been contracted to developers. From September 2012, for one year, the school will be based in temporary accommodation next door to the future site, in a building previously used by an independent school. This building and the surrounding site will be refurbished in the summer holidays to accommodate 28 Reception-aged boys and girls, although at present, there are 13 registered to enrol when the school opens. There are no children with special educational needs registered, but seven who speak English as an additional language as their home language is Modern Hebrew.

The headteacher, two class teachers and two teaching assistants, all of whom have qualified teacher status, have already been appointed to start in September. In discussion with the headteacher, the inspector advised that when the new premises are ready, the school can apply for a material change visit.

The school has a vision statement to: 'prepare its pupils to make a meaningful contribution to the global society in which they now live through developing an extraordinary blend of social responsibility, character development, academic excellence and a passion for learning and Jewish literacy'. Reception children will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum with an integrated Jewish studies programme.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The requirements of this standard are likely to be met, subject to satisfactory implementation, through the planned curriculum. The intended ethos of the school emphasises the pupils' personal development, particularly through the enriched, integrated curriculum which focuses on building a learning community and on studying nature and the environment. The planned provision clearly emphasises the development of the pupils' confidence, self-knowledge and their understanding of taking responsibility for their behaviour and actions. Although the emphasis is on the Jewish faith, because the children come from all faith backgrounds, the annual cycle of celebrations across faith groups is built into the calendar for the new school year so that the children can grow in their awareness of, and respect for, traditions and

cultures other than their own. Children of different backgrounds and beliefs will learn from diversity and difference and value one another. Visitors and group visits appropriate to the age range are planned to support class work in giving pupils an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All the required policies and procedures have been prepared and all comply with current guidance, including that on behaviour and anti-bullying. The safeguarding policy meets requirements and provides clear guidance to staff. Although all the staff have had the necessary checks in their previous employment, the school is awaiting new checks to be processed. A satisfactory safe recruitment policy is in place. The headteacher, who is the designated person for child protection, has signed up for the appropriate safeguarding training with the local safeguarding board before the school opens so that requirements will be met. Similarly, safeguarding training for all staff and adults on the site is part of the induction process prior to the school opening date. The newly appointed staff team will undertake qualified paediatric first aid training next week. Hazalah (Jewish paramedic service) is locally on hand and the school will appoint a full-time security guard.

The school has devised detailed and suitable procedures to assess and manage safety risks around the school site. There are written policies to promote good behaviour with clear codes of conduct and an appropriate set of sanctions and rewards. The health and safety policy is in line with requirements and has been drawn up with the welfare of the children at its heart. Currently, the admission and attendance registers are blank but are likely to meet requirements. They have been set up using an on-line facility. The premises are being adapted according to the school's access improvement plan to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Arrangements are in hand for the necessary fire safety checks when the refurbishment is deemed complete. Evacuation procedures in the case of fire have been carefully considered.

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The implementation of policies and procedures could not be seen as the school is not operating.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's policies and procedures are likely to meet all requirements. Recruitment procedures meet the current guidance. All appointed staff are in the process of being appropriately vetted and there is a single central record ready to contain all the required checks on the headteacher and staff. Members of the directorial board already have the necessary checks. The school will not employ supply staff. The systems are in place for volunteers and other groups to be checked in time for the opening of the school and the outcomes recorded on the single central record.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The refurbishment work has yet to be undertaken for the temporary premises but the architect's plans and models, as well as the site visit, confirm that the premises are on track to meet all of the regulations in time for the proposed school opening. The building needed for September is likely to meet the regulations for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and floor covering. The classroom is of a good size, with a small group room and an office. There are plans for washrooms for the adults and suitable washrooms for the 28 children. There will also be a disabled toilet close by. Play areas have been carefully considered and surfaces matched to the needs of young children both for free and guided play. Appropriate furniture and fittings are on order. There are clear plans for a suitable medical room in this accommodation.

Provision of information

The school website and prospectus provide the required information. All policies are readily available to prospective parents and carers on the website, and there is a dual language section for Hebrew speaking families. Termly reports to parents and carers on the achievement of pupils are already part of the planned school year.

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school's complaints policy and procedures are 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.

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 28

Recommended age range: 4 to 5 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

The school is seeking to grow each year and become a one form entry primary school with pupils aged 4 to 11 years. In discussion with the headteacher, it was

agreed that the present temporary accommodation would only be suitable for up to 28 children, and that when the new premises were complete, the school would apply for a material change visit.