

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

School name	The Rural Enterprise Academy
DfE registration number	999/1293
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Inspection number	404013
Inspection dates	13 June 2012
Reporting inspector	Susan Lewis

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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 Rural Enterprise Academy is located on the edge of the village of Penkridge in Staffordshire and in the grounds of Rodbaston College, which is part of the South Staffordshire College. Rodbaston College specialises in providing further and higher education courses for construction-related industries and land-based activities and the new free school is committed to the land-based and environmental sustainability sector.

As a new free school, The Rural Enterprise Academy wishes to admit students aged 14 to 19 years. It is sponsored by South Staffordshire College, in partnership with the National Farmers Union and Veolia, environmental service providers. The new school hopes to admit up to 300 students, 120 of whom will be in the sixth form, but will admit 52 in September 2012. The school's accommodation is currently being refurbished from buildings previously used by Rodbaston College and Phase 1 will be completed in early August 2012. Phase 2 will be finished in September 2013 in time for the school to take its full complement of students. This will include dedicated sports facilities as well as specialist science and ICT rooms, an independent learning centre and general teaching rooms. Students from the school will also have access to resources available to other students on the Rodbaston campus. The school's vision is for a dynamic, innovative, rural, community-centred enterprise school that will raise aspirations and achievement and the development of every student to achieve their potential. Students will take a range of vocational and academic qualifications linked to key skills, environmental sustainability, rural enterprise and the land-based sector.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

All regulations are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. The school's aims and values are underpinned by a commitment to developing students' sense of personal responsibility and respect for each other and their environment. Students will be provided with a range of opportunities to work independently and apply skills and knowledge. Religious studies and personal, social and health education and citizenship programmes put students' personal development and academic progress at the centre of all the school does. There are very high expectations of behaviour, teamwork and community involvement through the school's behavioural policies, teaching and learning approaches and activities such as involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh and Young Enterprise award schemes and charitable activities. Sports leadership and prefect systems, as well as an elected school council, support students' involvement and contribution. High standards of behaviour are expected. Specific study programmes, such as comparisons of land use in rural Britain and India and religious education programmes, support students' understanding of diversity and of other cultures. Appropriate plans are in place to

support students' health, safety, and enjoyment of learning and there is a focus on them becoming good citizens.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

All regulations are likely to be met. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school has appropriate systems and procedures in place for health and safety and securing students' safety on educational visits. The building is not yet complete but a date has been ascertained both for the completion of Phase 1 of the development and for appropriate fire risk assessments to be in place.

Evacuation procedures are clear. Detailed policies for the management of students' behaviour make clear the sanctions to be put in place if students do not adhere to the agreed rules and code of conduct. Staff induction procedures and training are planned so as to support consistent application of policies. There is an emphasis in the training on keeping students safe and on high expectations of students' behaviour. Anti-bullying and anti-racism policies include clear guidelines as to how any incidents will be dealt with.

The headteacher is the designated person for child protection and has received appropriate training for this role. All staff will receive training in child protection. Safe recruitment procedures follow guidance and are meticulously implemented and recorded. All the required checks are carried out prior to staff taking up appointments. The school fulfils its duties in relation to the Equality Act 2010. A detailed equal opportunities statement and a three year access improvement plan have been drawn up.

The college has a detailed first aid policy and plans are in place to train an appropriate number of first aiders. A member of staff already appointed is a highly trained 'first responder'. The school has appropriate procedures for the completion of attendance and admissions registers. An electronic system will be in place by September.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met. All the required checks on staff's identify, medical fitness, qualifications and right to work in the United Kingdom are in place, although most staff have only been interviewed and offered posts very recently. Staff are offered posts subject to the outcomes of these checks and the enhanced CRB disclosures as required, and these are recorded meticulously. The Chair of the Governing Body has had all his checks undertaken through the DfE, as required.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

All regulations are met. The buildings are spacious, well maintained and have a good range of facilities and specialist rooms. Smaller rooms allow for pastoral support and sixth form teaching. The school will have its own cafeteria and independent learning area. There is a good number of washroom facilities and a suitably equipped medical

room where students can go to if they are ill. There are safe outdoor play areas and garden areas where students can grow their own vegetables and flowers.

Provision of information

The provision meets all the regulations.

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: 300

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable):N/A

Recommended age range:14-19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.