

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of free schools

School name	Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School
DfE registration number	889/
Unique reference number (URN)	1286
Inspection number	404006
Inspection dates	9 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Mohammad Ismail

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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

Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School is a free school sponsored by The Tauheedul Islam Trust which also owns Tauheedul Islam Girls school in the area. The school will initially be based in a building which was used by a junior school until last Easter. In January 2014 the school will move to its permanent location in a new building, which is going through some construction work at present. The school will serve Blackburn and the surrounding areas of Lancashire. The school is planned to be opened to students in September 2012 for an age range of 11-18 years. The school intends to start with 152 students of all abilities. The numbers will gradually increase to 700 when the school will move into its permanent building. The school aims 'to develop learners who are outstanding believers, active and participatory citizens and exemplary members of their community' – contributing to the development of a successful 'Big Society'. The school is a Muslim school and is open to students from all other faiths and no faith backgrounds.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all the regulations in this standard are likely to be met by the planning but implementation could not be checked. The school's mission statement is 'to promote the culture of educational excellence, from within a caring and secure Islamic environment enriched with the values of discipline, mutual care and respect which extends beyond the school into the wider community.' The school is planned to be the first 'big society' school in the country where young people will develop pride in, and responsibility towards, their communities. All students will spend 500 hours on community related projects in this respect. The school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural programme is based on 'Every Child Matters' principles, which are built into every scheme of work to focus on the importance of developing students' self-esteem. There is an emphasis on supporting students to develop their self-confidence and aspirations. The schemes of work for personal, social and health education (PSHE) and religious studies (RS) programmes will strongly support student's personal development. The PSHE programme is designed to promote the importance of leadership and to encourage community initiatives such as fund raising for charities and helping in the community. There are plans for visiting places relating to many cultures and speakers from various cultural groups will be invited to talk to students.

There is a detailed programme of extra-curricular activities. The activities will take place during lunch times and after school. Students will take part in a programme of personal development including sports, cultural and creative activities. They will have opportunities for developing their communication skills, self-actualisation, problem solving and enhancement of their emotional intelligence. As part of their social development students will take part in discussions about democracy. They will

elect their own school's council. In addition, in their citizenship programme, the students will learn about the global community. The school's citizenship and history programmes will enable students to learn about Britain's political institutions. The school's PSHE programme stresses the importance of respect and tolerance. The RS programme features Islam as the key religion as the majority of students will be from Muslim backgrounds. However, the programme also includes the study of other major faiths and cultures in the UK and around the world. Plans are in place to offer students personal counselling sessions and career advice. The policy for students' personal and social development emphasises the importance of establishing a school community based on its ethos, values and procedures. The school's pastoral programme intends to promote good behaviour and ethics in the light of Islamic teaching. The school has established a parents' group to ensure parents' involvements in their children's education.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school's planning is likely to meet all regulatory requirements in this standard although implementation could not be seen. The required range of welfare, health and safety policies has been produced. These were scrutinised and were found to meet all the requirements. The school has an appropriate number of staff who have up-to-date training in first aid and all have training in safeguarding. The school's designated person for child protection and his deputy are trained at the required level. Suitable safe recruitment procedures are built into the safeguarding policy and have been implemented correctly in the appointment of staff. A database has been established to include registers for daily registration and admissions. An appropriate access improvement plan is being developed so that the school will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 on opening.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The planning for safe recruitment and its implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Checks on the suitability of staff have been completed and all existing governors have had a criminal records bureau check. A suitable single central register has been constructed and details of all required staff checks are being entered correctly as they are received by the school.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The present and proposed premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. Some refurbishment is required in the present premises (St Steven's Junior School building) to meet the standards relating to adequate teaching space and decoration which will be completed in August. It is likely that the building programme will be completed to a standard suitable for opening the school by the proposed date so that the regulations will be met. After the completion of planned work, the premises will provide adequate space for teaching. All required facilities will be in place, including the required outside play area. The premises will provide a safe and secure environment. There is a sufficient number of classrooms and also of

toilets for students and staff. The proposed future premises are also undergoing some construction work which will be completed before January 2014 when the school will move into its new building.

- The school's present building will go through some refurbishment work before opening in September to ensure that it meets the standards relating to teaching space and decoration on opening. The school confirmed this in writing.

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: 700

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): None

Recommended age range: 11-18

Recommended gender of pupils: Male

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.