

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

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School name	St Michael's Catholic Secondary School
DfE registration number	n/a
Unique reference number (URN)	1283
Inspection number	404003
Inspection dates	16 July 2012
Reporting inspector	Susan Kara

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Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

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E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
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## **Context of the school**

St Michael's Catholic Secondary School plans to open as a mixed denominational 11 to 16 school in the centre of Camborne in September 2012. In the first year the school will be located in the building that was originally the Girls' Grammar School and that most recently has been a Sure Start centre. The building will be refurbished over the summer and will provide accommodation for 105 students. An extensive additional block, within the original site, is planned to open in September 2013. The school will then be able to provide 300 places. The Principal, five full-time and four part-time teachers have already been appointed for September. A business manager was appointed in May 2012.

The school's aim is to deliver an excellent, broad and balanced Catholic education while welcoming students from all backgrounds, with faith or no faith. A distinctive feature of the school will be the 'outstanding pastoral care and strong pupil identity and friendship'. The curriculum will 'include the academic, spiritual and practical skills that are necessary in the world of today'.

## **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 vision 'seeks to live out the message and life of Jesus Christ according to the teaching of the Catholic Church – by the learning we share, the example we set and the concern we have for all'. The intended ethos is described as one of 'respect and caring and doing the right thing'. This philosophy underpins every aspect of the school's planned provision and intended ways of working. Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship will be delivered across the curriculum, supplemented with special half days throughout the year allocated to PSHE activities. With an extended school day every student will have access to a wide range of clubs that will further support their social and cultural development. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will also be supported by a Chaplaincy team comprising Catholic priests and ministers from other Christian denominations. There are clear plans to ensure the pupils will acquire a good knowledge of English public institutions and an appreciation of and respect for other cultures and all the major faiths.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

Although their implementation could not be seen all of the policies that relate to welfare, health, safety and safeguarding are in place and comply with current guidance. The requirements are therefore likely to be met. There is a specific policy to promote a high standard of behaviour which is supported by a number of other relevant policies such as the anti-bullying policy. Appropriate rewards and sanctions

are described in detail. The Principal is the designated person responsible for safeguarding, including child protection, and he has undertaken appropriate training. Arrangements are in place for all staff to receive child protection training before the school opens in September so that requirements will be met. The appointed staff includes a qualified first aider. All appointments of new staff and those who are joining from the predecessor school have been made in accordance with safer recruitment best practice.

Admission and attendance registers are in place, ready for use. The school has detailed and suitable procedures to assess and manage safety around the site and when students undertake off-site visits. As the school is taking over very recently vacated educational premises the building meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010; fire safety, security and disability access all meet current requirements. There are detailed plans to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors to the site once the building works commence.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

A single central record is in place that contains all the required checks for staff and members of the governing body. The Principal and the business manager have a thorough understanding of the actions necessary to comply with existing regulations and meet best practice guidance. Detailed protocols are in place for the appointment of any supply staff. All requirements are likely to be met.

### **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

The school has a confirmed detailed refurbishment programme for the existing building over the summer holiday, to ensure that it will meet the needs of a secondary school. All requirements are likely to be met. The programme includes the provision of specialist rooms for science, art, and design and technology. The building already meets the requirements for heating, lighting and ventilation. Any necessary redecorating and renewal of the floor coverings are part of the summer holiday refurbishment programme, so that the relevant requirements will be met. The existing canteen facilities will be used as a dining and social area. Washroom facilities will exceed the minimum requirements. Careful consideration has been given to providing sufficient and suitable outdoor play space while the new building is erected during 2012/13. Access is already in place for disabled students.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. The school website already provides all the key information. Many policies are available online, others are being added daily and all policies are available on request, in hard copy.

## **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The provision is 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.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 300

Recommended age range: 11–16

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed