

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

School name	Hull Studio School
DfE registration number	999/1262
Unique reference number (URN)	1262
Inspection number	403981
Inspection dates	6 July 2012
Reporting inspector	David Young

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Context of the school

The Hull Studio School is located on the site of its sponsor, Hull College, in the centre of the City of Hull. It will occupy a three-storey building previously used for further education as part of the Hull College Campus. It will admit up to 300 male and female students in the age range 14 to 19 years. It is planned to open on 6 September 2012 with an initial intake of 120 students. The school has an inclusive intake policy and anticipates that students with special educational needs will be admitted within the intake. The school aims to offer 'a bold new approach to education, designed to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and experience they need to succeed in work.'

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The school's planned curriculum model is based on key skills which include relating to others, enterprise, application, thinking and emotional intelligence. Each of the projects within the planned cycle include these dimensions related to the development of social and emotional skills. Each student will work with a personal coach who will have responsibility for overseeing both their work and their personal growth. The school's behaviour policy sets out high expectations of students' responsibilities, together with appropriate rewards and sanctions in detail to support consistency of implementation. Students will be given a broad knowledge of public institutions and services. Firm arrangements are in place, for example, for the involvement of the police, the courts, the prison service and a local firm of solicitors to contribute to projects with the students. Representatives from the college students' union have agreed to work with students to set up a school union, based on democratic principles. The school also has a commitment to developing students' appreciation of other cultures, for example through Fair Trade activities, an awareness of the features and impact of global trade, and a proposed link with a township school in South Africa. All students will take part in language and cultural awareness courses, including language taster experiences. They will also have involvement in an International Comenius project, together with links with China, the United States and Poland.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. A suitable safeguarding policy has been produced and a designated person for child protection appointed within the senior staff team. Firm arrangements are in place for this staff member to update his training during August so that requirements will be met. Child protection training for all staff is built into the pre-opening induction programme. Appropriate policies have been prepared for behaviour management, counter-bullying, off-site visits, and first aid which take account of DFE guidance and which meet the regulatory requirements. At least one qualified first-aider has been appointed to the staff, a second member is to update

his training, and additional training will be provided as new staff are appointed. The school has a service level agreement with the College estates team. They will take responsibility for health and safety on the premises, including fire safety risk assessment and routine checks on fire safety equipment. A risk assessment is already in place for the premises, and there is a revised version for operation during the refurbishment. The estates team will review and update the risk assessment on completion of the refurbishment, including any required communication with the local fire service. A suitable commercial software package has been installed to accommodate the admission and attendance registers, and to maintain records of all accidents, incidents and application of sanctions. An equality scheme policy has been written which includes a commitment to the accessibility of the premises, the curriculum and to information. The policy ensures that accessibility is built into the school development planning cycle and will include a detailed three-year plan once the building refurbishment work is completed so that the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will be met on opening.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. The chairperson of the sponsors/trustees has had his credentials checked by the DfE and arrangements are in operation for conducting suitability checks on trustees and governors. Full details of the required checks on staff appointed to date have been entered on to a suitably constructed single central register. There are no immediate plans to employ supply staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. It will occupy the major part of a three-storey building which has, until recently, formed part of the premises of Hull College. The remaining part of the building will continue to house other educational provision. There is physical separation by 'Maglock' doors between the school and college provisions and school students will not come into contact with other users. The school will have its own controlled entrance and exclusive access to an outside space to be used for play and recreation. The school also has access to the local park immediately adjacent to the premises, and to a range of additional sports facilities within the locality. The school is aware of the need for appropriate supervision and safety checks for any off-site activities. The premises are in good physical condition and have been maintained to an appropriate standard; they are currently being reconfigured and the work is likely to be completed before the planned opening date so that all requirements will be met. The school has access to suitable alternative, temporary accommodation within Hull College in the event of any delay. There are sufficient toilets for male and female students and for staff and visitors, including disabled facilities. A lift provides suitable access to all areas of the school for any students with disabilities.

The accommodation will provide adequate space for the planned eventual intake of 300 students. A science laboratory and a number of teaching spaces of appropriate size and layout are clearly set out on the plans and a tour of the site demonstrates that the size and quality of the spaces will be appropriate for effective learning. The plans are innovative in that much of the learning will be managed individually by the students and the accommodation is arranged to allow for this, together with conference and meeting spaces to embrace the business and enterprise ethos of the school. Students will also have access to additional specialist practical facilities for work related learning, working under the supervision of suitably checked staff, within the college campus.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the 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 on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:

- ensure that all members of staff, including the designated child protection officers, have undertaken the relevant child protection training prior to the school opening (paragraph 7)
- ensure that the identified members of staff undertake first aid training, prior to the school opening (paragraph 14)

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 300

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): n/a

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: n/a.