

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

School name	School 21
DfE registration number	316/2003
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Reporting inspector	David Scott

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## Context of the school

School 21 plans to open as a mixed, non-denominational free school for pupils aged from 4 to 18 years with provision in its first year for 75 places in Reception and 77 places for Year 7. There are 152 students already registered to enrol when the school opens. One pupil registered has a statement of special educational needs. For the academic year 2012/13, the school will open in temporary classrooms located in the grounds of its permanent site, this being a former secondary school building. In the long-term, the school aims to provide a total of 1,200 places. The secondary and primary headteachers, together with 11 full-time teachers, have already been appointed.

School 21 aims to ensure that all young people receive, 'an exciting, challenging and high quality education' that prepares them to pursue 'fulfilling careers and happy, purposeful lives'. There will be a strong focus on reading, writing and speaking in order to ensure that basic skills are firmly established so that each pupil can access all areas of the curriculum with ease. In addition, thinking skills will be developed that link the five areas of the mind: creative, connecting, respecting, disciplined and reflective.

Pro-active partnerships with parents and carers will be given a high priority, with planned home visits designed to give parents and carers the necessary skills to support their children.

## 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 core values of 'integrity' and 'humanity' are at the heart of its planned provision for personal, social and health education. Each pupil will receive two half-hour sessions each day of coaching from a personal tutor in small groups to promote and develop self-esteem, skills and 'resiliency'. In addition, the planned weekly 'civic sessions' will allow pupils to engage in 'big philosophical debates' as well as political and social ones, so that all of them can develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England.

The planned programme of assemblies and celebrations across faith groups is carefully woven into the calendar so that students are afforded the opportunity to appreciate and respect traditions and cultures other than their own. The school's intended ethos is based on high standards of behaviour and respect which are integral to the learning environment so as to enable pupils to think deeply and act with kindness and integrity. Social development will be further promoted by allowing pupils to take on posts of responsibility such as the 'student cabinet' and the role of 'School 21 ambassador' whereby they will be able to hone their leadership skills by assisting with the smooth running of the school.

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

All policies relating to the welfare, health, safety and safeguarding of pupils are in place and are likely to meet requirements. By the end of August, one senior member of staff will be trained as the school's designated child protection officer, and a further one will be trained by the end of September. All staff will receive training in safeguarding procedures prior to the school opening in September so that requirements are met, as noted below. In addition, two members of staff have already received paediatric first-aid training. Plans are in place to enable a further six staff to gain qualifications in first aid. The primary headteacher has been trained, and one senior member of staff will have received training in safer recruitment, and these principles have applied to the appointment of all staff to date. School 21 has provided confirmation that all the staff training will be completed before the school opens, and will send the appropriate evidence to the Department for Education (DfE), so that the requirements will be met in full.

The school has detailed policies and procedures to assess and manage health and safety risks around the school site. These include the behaviour policy which sets high expectations that the pupils are expected to 'buy-into', together with an appropriate range of sanctions and rewards. The installation of temporary classrooms is due to be completed by late August. Evacuation procedures, together with the necessary fire checks, are in place or planned. Appropriate attendance and admission registers are ready for use. The temporary classrooms only require very minor modifications in order to fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The school has an appropriate plan in place to make these improvements.

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

All appointed staff are suitably vetted and these checks are captured in a single central record which includes all members of the governing body. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but, if the need arises, appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations. All requirements are likely to be met.

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

Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works confirm that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September 2012. Overall, the installation of washrooms, including two toilets for disabled people, will ensure that the school exceeds the required ratio. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed to provide a learning environment rich in technology resources to promote independent learning. These are likely to meet requirements. The planned building will have access for those with disabilities to the ground floor and a newly-installed lift will enable full access to the first floor. The access policy details arrangements for disabled pupils to be admitted to the school. A medical room is

planned as an integral part of the administrative suite and will be suitably equipped.  
All requirements are likely to be met.

### **Provision of information**

The provision meets all regulations.

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

The provision is likely to meet all of 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: 1,200 pupils

Recommended age range: 4 to 18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed