

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

School name	Midland Studio College - Hinckley
DfE registration number	999/1269
Unique reference number (URN)	1269
Inspection number	403989
Inspection dates	12 June 2012
Reporting inspector	Susan Lewis

Context of the school

Midland Studio College is located in Hinckley, Leicestershire. As a new Studio School, it wishes to admit students aged 14 to 19 years. It is sponsored by the North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, whose Principal is the chair of the school's governing body. The Midlands Studio College is part of a national network of studio schools supported by the Studio Schools Trust and also works within the Midlands Academies Trust. The Executive Principal of the college was appointed in April 2012.

The college will open in September 2012 with 105 students on roll, in newly refurbished buildings on the edge of Hinckley town centre. One student enrolled to date has a statement of special educational needs. The college hopes to admit up to 300 students including 150 in the sixth form.

The college's accommodation is currently being converted from buildings which have previously had a variety of educational uses. No more than 180 students will be on site at any one time, as students undertake continuous work experience, enrichment activities or use the off-site facilities of the sponsor college.

The college's vision is to put young people in a strong position to succeed in the workplace. 'Through offering excellent teaching and learning, one-to-one coaching, real work experience and the development of core personal skills including communication and teamwork, students will leave the college confident and with a sense of purpose.'

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 college's aims and values are highly focused on personal development. Its emphasis on 'enquiry learning', personal responsibility and teamwork puts students' personal development and academic progress at the centre of its work. The programmes and range of experiences, including the work experience and work with local employers provide a strong foundation for students' spiritual moral social and cultural development. They also strongly support students' contribution to the college and the local community and their understanding of what citizenship involves. The detailed policies, plans and procedures have an appropriate emphasis on students accepting responsibility for their actions, understanding the challenges of working life and working within teams. There are clear plans in place for promoting their understanding of the diversity of cultures and beliefs in today's world and of other people's points of views. An emphasis on communication skills is planned to support students' self-expression and presentation skills.

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 college has clear systems and procedures for health and safety and ensuring students are safe on educational visits. The building is not yet complete but a date had been ascertained both for handover in early August and for appropriate fire risk assessments to take place to ensure that requirements will be met. Evacuation procedures are clear. There are detailed policies on managing students' behaviour and the sanctions to be put in place if students do not adhere to the college's agreed rules and code of conduct. These exemplify high expectations and a positive approach to behaviour management, including an emphasis on personal and mutual respect. Bullying will not be tolerated and there are clear guidelines as to how incidents will be dealt with if they arise.

The principal has had appropriate training in safe recruitment and these procedures are meticulously followed as to the checks to be carried out prior to staff taking up appointments. A detailed equal opportunities statement applying to students, families and employees and a three-year access improvement plan is in place which meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The safeguarding policy contains all the required information and the designated persons overseeing child protection have been trained to the required level. There are plans for further staff to be trained to this level and the required basic training in safeguarding is planned as part of all staff's induction.

The college has an appropriate first aid policy and plans to have an appropriate number of qualified first aiders in place. It has appropriate procedures for the completion of attendance and admission registers, for which an electronic system is in the process of being installed.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met. All the checks on staff's identity, medical fitness, qualifications and right to work in the United Kingdom are in place and have been carried out meticulously to date. The Chair of the Governing Body has had all her checks undertaken through the DfE, as required.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

All regulations are likely to be met. The building is spacious and will have a good range of facilities. Plans for washroom facilities and a 'medical room' where students can go to if they are ill have been recently adapted so that all facilities for male and female students are separate and the medical room has the required washbasin and is near to the washroom facilities. Outdoor facilities are suitable for safe play and recreation.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

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 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.