

# 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	The Royal Greenwich UTC
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	139786
Inspection number	422383
Inspection dates	14 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Helena McVeigh

## **Information about the inspection**

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>1</sup>

## **Context of the school**

The proposed Royal Greenwich University Technical College (UTC) is to be located in a new three-storey block adjoined to a refurbished single-storey former warehouse on Woolwich Road, close to the Thames Barrier in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The UTC is sponsored by four organisations: the University of Greenwich, Transport for London, the Wates Group and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The UTC plans to admit up to 600 male and female students in the age range 14 to 19 years. In its first year, from 1 September 2013, it aims to admit students to Years 10 and 12 and there are 150 students registered for enrolment at present. Five of these students have statements of special educational needs.

The UTC intends to provide a traditional GCSE and A-level academic curriculum alongside technical subjects and qualifications, with specialisms of engineering and construction. The UTC's aim is to produce 'young people with great qualifications and real skills who are able to think things through, solve problems and demonstrate commercial understanding in what they do and how they behave'. The UTC also includes a pledge that every student who successfully graduates will have the opportunity of a place at a university or further education college, an apprenticeship or industry-relevant employment.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The UTC's ethos document outlines a vision for students that encompasses a framework for effectively promoting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The plan is to achieve this through the general school curriculum, with its focus on the development of business- and work-related skills, as well as through personal, social and health education (PSHE) lessons that will be compulsory for all students. In addition, the plan is for a Graduate Attributes (GA) programme where students will learn a range of interpersonal skills and how to work in teams to solve problems. The PSHE and GA programmes aim to teach students about civil and criminal law, the political system and public institutions in the United Kingdom and British democracy, as well as cultural understanding and challenging prejudice, racism and discrimination. The religious education curriculum is designed to teach about different belief systems and to develop respect for them. The behaviour and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

anti-bullying policies set out the expectations for how students will deport themselves in the UTC and how they will relate to each other and to adults. There are defined rewards and sanctions, within what the ethos document describes as 'an ideology based on business etiquette'.

The UTC's intention is that students will learn how to accept responsibility and how to become useful citizens through involvement in activities such as membership of the Junior Board or as peer mentors, and through a range of community events and competitions. The plan is for strong links with local businesses and community projects and to extend the curriculum through a range of educational visits and an enrichment programme that includes a variety of sports, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, language classes, Young Designers and Young Engineer sessions. The sponsors have stated that the planned curriculum will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented. There is also a clause in the staff code of conduct policy that states that staff must not promote any partisan political views and that staff should aim to help students reflect on balanced views on such issues as politics and religion.

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

Requirements are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. All of the required policy documents have been prepared, including safeguarding, health and safety, safer recruitment, behaviour, anti-bullying and first aid. The Principal has been trained in safer recruitment and the principles applied in the recruitment of teachers who will start work in September. Training in child protection and safeguarding is planned as part of the induction for staff in the first week of September, before students start. The designated person for child protection has booked onto updated training to the required level in July 2013.

Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. Students will use swipe cards, which will also serve as Oyster cards and lunch vouchers, to enter and leave the building. Teachers will record attendance electronically in each lesson and the system has been set up so that when the fire bell is sounded there will automatically be printouts of the registers so that staff can check who is present. The school building has been designed to meet all health and safety standards, with a report from the fire authority. The buildings, which were inspected along with the plans, have been designed to meet the all the requirements of the Equality Act and provide full equality of access for disabled students, with ramps at the entrance, lifts to all floors and four disabled toilets.

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

Requirements are likely to be met. All of the required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for the two members of staff – the Principal and the Director of English and humanities – who have been appointed to date. The details of the checks and necessary information are recorded on a suitable single central register.

The UTC is in the process of appointing further members of staff and has plans to undertake appropriate checks and update the register. The UTC is likely to employ supply staff using known agencies, and will require written confirmation that all checks have been undertaken.

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

All requirements are likely to be met. The UTC buildings and grounds are in the process of being completed and have been designed to suit its engineering and construction-focused curriculum, as well as providing classrooms for subjects such as English, mathematics, science and humanities. The rooms are of a good size to accommodate 30 students each, although the expectation is for smaller numbers. There are changing rooms and showers, and there is the necessary protective clothing for the workshops, as well as appropriate toilets and washing facilities for students and staff. There is a medical room with adjacent toilet and a hygiene room. There are controls to ensure that the water temperature does not rise above a safe level, and labelled drinking water outlets from which students will be able to fill their individual water bottles. There are detailed design briefs and reports on the acoustics and lighting of the building and an expectation that the building will achieve a 'very good' Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating. The rooms have a good amount of natural light due to the location of windows and very high ceilings.

The outside recreation areas are adequate, and include an artificial surface 200 metres running track and space for general recreation. The whole site is secure with fencing, CCTV cameras and external lighting. The UTC plans to make use of nearby community and local school facilities for sports, as well as having its own hall for dance, and a fitness suite for older students.

## **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: 600

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.