

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a studio school

School name	Waverley Studio College
DfE registration number	999/1440
Unique reference number (URN)	1440
Inspection number	422337
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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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 2008.¹

Context of the school

The proprietor, Waverley Education Foundation Limited, seeks to establish a studio school for up to 300 male and female students aged 14 to 19 years at premises in the Bordesley Green area in Birmingham, adjacent to the Heartlands Hospital campus. The school will specialise in Health and Social Care, and Enterprise and Crafts. The school intends to open on 1 September 2013 with up to 100 students in Year 10 and up to 50 students in Year 12. Until construction of a new school building is completed during 2015, students will be housed in a wing of Waverley School where they will also have access to specialist teaching facilities, including those for science and physical education.

Students in Years 10 and 11 will spend three weeks at the end of the summer term working with an employer, while those in Years 12 and 13 will spend one day a week with an employer. The school day will run from 9am to 5pm for 39 weeks of the year. Waverley Studio College's core aim is 'unlocking talent, creating futures, changing lives'. The Principal designate and Vice Principal designate took up their posts on the morning of this inspection visit.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The proposed provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is appropriate for the age of the school's students and accords with its aims. The school has devised a comprehensive programme of personal, social, moral and health education which will be delivered thematically by form tutors in discrete weekly lessons, assemblies and through visits and visitors to the school.

The school's proposed programme offers a range of social, moral and cultural enrichment activities focused on preparing them for their future lives in society and in the workplace. A key element of the provision will be students' participation in health-related workplaces so that they are enabled to move seamlessly from school into further training and specialist employment. The nine strands to be covered over

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

the five years that the students are in the school encompass their understanding of the arts, technology, and public services and institutions in England. The school's policies and procedures are planned to promote high expectations of students' behaviour, building initiative and resilience, developing positive attitudes to learning and promoting respect for self and others. Students will have many opportunities to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem through academic, vocational and enrichment activities, and as active members of the school community through the school council. Respect for the civil and criminal law and for the differing views and opinions of others, including those of different faiths and cultures, is reflected throughout the school's proposed programme. The school has taken suitable steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject and, where political issues are brought to the attention of the students, that reasonable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's safeguarding policy follows the model provided by the local authority and reflects the guidance provided by the Secretary of State and the local safeguarding board. The Principal of the host Waverley School will be the senior designated officer and has been appropriately trained. The Principal designate and Vice Principal designate of the studio college are additionally booked to complete higher level safeguarding training before the school opens. No other staff have been appointed, but all staff will be provided with appropriate training in safeguarding matters as part of their induction programme prior to the school opening. The Chair of the Governing Body has completed a recognised training course in safe recruitment procedures and the Principal designate and Vice Principal designate are undertaking similar training as part of their induction. The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed. The school has made robust arrangements with its host to ensure that the welfare, health and safety of students and staff at both schools are not compromised.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in school and when on visits, meet requirements. A secure record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour. The premises, which were completed earlier this year and occupied by the host school from April 2013, have been certified by the local planning authority's building control officer as meeting all requirements, including those for fire safety. The studio college has arranged for an inspection by the fire officer prior to admitting students, so that all requirements will be met. The school has had due regard to the Equality Act 2010, with the design providing for full access to the premises; the school also has a plan to develop full access to the curriculum and to information. The first aid policy provides suitable guidance, and it is firmly planned to train staff in first aid procedures during their induction. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance

registers that reflects requirements. The school's policies and procedures complement those of the host school.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including criminal records checks, as they are appointed. These are suitably recorded on the school's single central register. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness and any other checks, are complete for those already in post and are in the process of being completed for others as they are appointed. The school obtains and checks written references on all applicants in line with safe recruitment guidelines. The school has made suitable arrangements with the host school for ensuring the suitability of all adults with whom students may have contact.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. The accommodation is ready for occupation and the furnishings and equipment are in place for when the first students arrive. The accommodation is finished to a high standard. All mains services are connected and are in working order. The maintenance of the premises, and the arrangements for keeping them clean and tidy, form part of the contract with the host school. The standards of decoration, inside and outside lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring are likely to meet requirements. There is suitable access, including a lift for people with physical disabilities. Emergency exit routes are clearly signed and provide free passage to safety.

All teaching rooms have multi-media facilities. The school will use the host school's specialist facilities including science laboratories, computer suites and those for physical education and games. Students will be escorted by staff when moving from their base to these facilities and the timing of the school day will be arranged so that contact with other students is minimal. Students will have separate outdoor facilities for recreation and play.

All the requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies and labelled drinking water supplies are likely to be met. The washroom facilities for students and staff are sufficient for the proposed number on roll. There are suitable washroom facilities for disabled people and appropriately equipped medical facilities for students. The facilities for physical education and games include separate changing room facilities and showers for male and female students. The security of the building and grounds is likely to meet requirements, with access to the building electronically controlled. Students will use a separate entrance and arrangements have been made with the host school for visitors and deliveries to be properly checked and supervised.

Provision of information

The provision meets all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all regulations.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

- **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: N/A

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.