

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

School name	King's School
DfE registration number	846/4002
Unique reference number (URN)	139409
Inspection number	422364
Inspection dates	17 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Scott

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

King's School is a free school which will be initially located, for up to three years, at the Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACS) sixth form centre. The school will be designated as a faith school for students of Christian faith and if oversubscribed will admit 50% of students on the basis of their Christian faith. The school is sponsored by the Russell Education Trust (RET) and is due to open on 4 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 1,050 boys and girls from ages 11 to 19. It will admit up to 125 students aged 11 to 12 in its first year. At present there are 76 students registered for enrolment, most of whom are of White British heritage. There are no students with a statement of special educational needs. Negotiations are on-going concerning the acquisition of a permanent site to open in 2015. The school's mission will be based on four core Christian values of 'respect, responsibility, forgiveness and love, where each student is of unique value'.

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 school's vision is for each student to 'reach their personal and academic potential', where they are able 'to enjoy learning in a caring Christian environment'. The school aims to promote a 'culture of high expectations and outstanding performance', where high moral standards will be modelled and taught, and to encourage positive interaction with the local and wider community. It also aims to create a school environment that 'inspires and equips young people to go out into the modern world prepared for life in all its fullness'. In order to achieve these outcomes, the school has woven the four core Christian values from its mission into the personal, social and health education curriculum. The planned tutor and assembly programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, is intended to provide all students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens by appreciating and respecting the diversity of various traditions and cultures globally and in the local community, and to develop an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England. The proposed extra-curricular programme is 'designed to provide students with an opportunity to enhance their personal development and self-image'. The school intends to engage and develop fruitful relationships with the local community by students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. All students will be expected to engage in at least one community service activity per

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

year, with the intention of promoting excellence, leadership and service in the locality. The staff handbook makes clear the expected code of conduct for staff to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. The school has prepared all the required policy documents, including those for safeguarding, child protection, recruitment and selection, behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid and the administration of medicines. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safe recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. All staff have been trained in child protection and safeguarding. The school already has sufficient staff trained in first aid. In addition, the school has identified dates for all other staff to receive first-aid training. Suitable policies have been prepared for health and safety, including safe evacuation of the premises. Planning for off-site educational visits has been compiled. Risk assessments have been completed, including for fire safety, and a visit from the fire officer has been arranged. The behaviour policy aims 'to promote high expectations and values instead of rules'. This will be delivered through 'Character Education', whereby students will be expected to be 'trustworthy, honest, fair and forgiving', and through the formation of 'routines, habits and attitudes', good relationships will be promoted and based on Christian principles and mutual respect. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year equality development plan provides details to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All of the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are captured in a single central record. The school does not intend to employ supply staff, but if the need arises in future, it has appropriate procedures in place to conduct the checks on such staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A tour of the site and scrutiny of the architect's plans confirm that the site is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September with up to 125 students. Orders (which were scrutinised during the visit) for resources, furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed and will provide a learning environment rich in technology; designed to promote students' independent research skills. Heating and lighting systems are likely to meet requirements. The accessibility plan details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the school. Should any physically disabled students be admitted to the school, their lessons will be timetabled on the ground floor. Suitable access measures, such as ramps and corridor stair lifts, have already been installed, as currently there is no lift to the first floor. There are sufficient washrooms for the number of students on roll, including four designated for disabled

users. Labelled drinking water fountains will be accessible to all students. The site has sufficient outside areas for recreation but these are not entirely suitable for physical education (PE). The school has secured the use of a local leisure centre, located just under one mile away, where all students will receive their PE lessons. The leisure centre is suitably equipped with showers and changing facilities. The school has appropriate risk assessments in place to ensure students will be conveyed safely to and from the venue. A suitable site has been identified for installation of an accessible medical room which meets regulatory requirements. This will be located on the ground floor, with washrooms located nearby. In addition, the school has identified a suitable area for the placement of its own showers and changing facilities.

There are no plans available for the proposed new accommodation, so this section and the recommendation refer only to the provision for the initial intake of 125 students.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school 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: 125 (school seeking registration eventually for 1,050 students)

Recommended age range: 11–12 (eventually 11–19)

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the planned building works have been completed.