

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy/free school/studio school/university technical college (UTC)

School name	Tooting Primary School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1488
Inspection number	422398
Inspection dates	3 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Liz Pike

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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 planned Tooting Primary School is to be situated in the refurbished premises of Wandsworth local authority's professional development centre which is being decommissioned. This free school is sponsored by the charitable Graveney Trust and is due to open on 3 September 2013. The headteacher and special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) are already in post. The school has applied to admit up to 420 boys and girls in the age range of four to 11 years. There are plans to admit 60 children to two Reception classes in September 2013 and to continue to admit similar numbers each year, so the school will grow from September's Reception classes to a school with Reception to Year 6 classes in a few years time. The school plans to have a 20-place unit for children on the autistic spectrum. Currently, there is funding for three children in the unit and these places are due to be taken up in September. Additionally, the school will be non-selective and it is prepared to admit children with other special educational needs. The school intends to make a difference to children's lives and aims to create a safe environment where children enjoy learning and see the value in hard work and perseverance.

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 actions taken so far indicate that the headteacher and SENCo are working effectively towards providing well for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. An example of these actions includes the way in which the behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out clearly how children will be expected and encouraged to develop consideration and respect for others and the school. Another example is the policy for personal, social, health and emotional development in which the school states its intention to empower children to lead healthy and active lives and to become responsible citizens. These aims are developed further through the 'Tooting Jigsaw', a scheme by which the school plans to ensure that each pupil has acquired: an enquiring mind and a love of learning; the ability to speak to groups of peers and groups of adults with equal confidence; an understanding of and commitment to healthy lifestyles; an understanding of how to stay safe both physically and in the virtual world; a sense of social responsibility and a respect for the institutions and civil law that form the cornerstones of life in the UK; and a good

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

level of cultural appreciation, including the ability to sing and/or play a musical instrument. A strong focus on music is planned, including that each class will receive weekly tuition from a specialist music teacher which is intended to develop skills in singing and ensemble untuned percussion playing. This is intended to lead to opportunities of singing in the school choir and playing to peers, so developing the art of performance and making a contribution to the community. As the school grows into Key Stage 2, the school plans to develop children's skills in other instrumental playing. To enhance the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to be delivered in September for the Reception classes, the headteacher and SENCo have investigated visits away from the school, for example to the local library, the nearby park and the Horniman Museum, to develop children's understanding of the wider community. They have also planned for visitors to the school in order to tap into the multicultural richness of the local area and to build an appreciation of other cultures. The proprietors have ensured that the planned curriculum is free from partisan, political or religious views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Implementation could not be seen but documentary evidence indicates that all but two of the requirements are likely to be met. All the mandatory policies have been created, including for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid; they are comprehensive. The school ensures that every appointment panel includes one member who has received safe recruitment training. The headteacher has been trained appropriately in child protection and is the designated officer. Designated members of staff will be updated with refresher courses on a two-yearly basis. All adults who work with children in the school will have refresher courses led by the headteacher on an annual basis. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety, including for fire safety but premises and fire safety risk assessments have not yet been completed and a report from the fire authority has not been arranged. A premises manager has been appointed and site risk assessments are planned to be conducted in early August jointly with the headteacher when the new school is ready for occupation. Arrangements have also been made with a contractor to conduct a fire risk assessment around the same time. Paper admission and attendance registers have been created but the headteacher is in the process of deciding whether to use electronic attendance registers and was due to attend a training session the day after this inspection. He is aware of the required format for these registers. It was clear from an inspection of the site and plans that the school's refurbished premises will have full access for disabled children. The school's equal opportunities policy provides a clear framework for enabling disabled children to reach their potential.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The actions taken so far and the systems in place for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed on the proprietors and the staff appointed to date and these are recorded on a suitable single central register. For this work, the school uses Graveney Secondary School's personnel and systems, which are rigorous. There is sufficient capacity within Tooting Primary School staff to cover staff absence so there is no intention to employ supply staff but the headteacher is aware of the responsibilities should supply staff be needed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in the refurbished premises of Wandsworth local authority's professional development centre, which is in the process of being decommissioned. The premises are undergoing refurbishment and the part to be used from September 2013 is unoccupied but a tour of the site was undertaken and detailed plans were scrutinised. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of Graveney Trust. The Department will continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

In September, children will be admitted into two Reception classes only. The premises to be opened then, the ground floor, are suitable for the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Additionally, there are two large areas within the building for the unit for children with autistic spectrum disorder and a third with its own outside space adjacent to but separate from the building. Orders for furniture and equipment, suitable for the proposed age range, are being placed including for the Reception classes' outside space where, as part of the refurbishment, there will be an awning to provide shade. The first and second floors are to be refurbished by summer 2014 in order to accommodate the September 2013 cohort which will move up to the Year 1 classrooms on the first floor in September 2014. At this time also, two new Reception classes will be admitted. There are sufficient and suitable toilets, including plans for separate toilets for children aged eight and over on the first and second floors. There is a specific sick bay room with washing and toilet facilities plus two toilets and a shower that are suitable for disabled pupils. There are appropriate facilities for the serving of food; for the first year at least, the preparation of food will be undertaken by Graveney Secondary School catering. The outside space for the Reception classes and that for the Key Stage 1 and 2 classes are adequately sized for play and physical education. In addition, the school plans to use the sports facilities at Graveney Secondary School both to supplement its own space and to extend the learning experience for children at Tooting Primary School. The buildings and access points to the grounds are on track to being fully secure before the school opens.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

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- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Recommended number of day pupils:	60
Recommended number of boarders:	0
Recommended age range:	4–11
Recommended gender of pupils:	mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs:	(includes unit for Autistic Spectrum Disorder).