

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	The Boulevard Academy
DfE registration number	810/
Unique reference number (URN)	139395
Inspection number	422318
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Reporting inspector	David Young

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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 Boulevard Academy is to be located on previously derelict land in Kingston-upon-Hull. The academy is sponsored by The Boulevard Academy Trust and is due to open in September 2013. The academy has applied to be registered to admit up to 600 boys and girls in the age range 11 to 16 years. It will admit up to 120 students into Year 7 in its first year. The academy will be non-selective and will admit some students with statements of special educational needs. The academy aims to 'assist students to develop the high expectations, academic and life skills that will best help them to be successful. Fostering personal confidence and happiness, the academy will challenge students to take responsibility for building a better world for the next generation'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The academy's aims and ethos include a commitment to ensure that all students will leave the academy equipped in the life skills that they will need to be successful in whatever pathway they may choose. The policies for behaviour and the prevention of bullying provide a strong context to enable students to understand the difference between right and wrong and how to develop appropriate relationships. The curriculum policy identifies opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the civil and criminal law and of public services in England. The curriculum includes a number of student-directed investigations which emphasise the development of personal values, such as independence, team work and personal motivation. Activities and concepts supporting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are diffused through the methodology and content of the subjects studied. A member of staff has been appointed to monitor the impact of these aspects of students' personal development across the academy community.

The leadership strand of the academy's personalised curriculum involves students in taking responsibility within the community, for example, working with younger children in local primary schools. Students will be involved in developing strategies to support charities, including an identified charity working in Malawi. Citizenship themes are to be explored through the academy's education/business partnership, working with business and commercial mentors. Opportunities are built into the

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

curriculum to involve students in the Hull youth parliament and the local junior chamber of trade and commerce. The curriculum on Friday afternoons has an emphasis on self- and peer-reflection and a senior teaching assistant has been appointed to develop, for example, 'visioning exercises' regarding students' expectations in relation to the world of work and careers pathways.

The academy recognises that it will be serving a mainly white local population and has plans to develop links beyond the academy and to ensure that students have the opportunity to identify and work with effective role models from diverse backgrounds. The curriculum includes a number of themes within its planned cross-subject programme that will encourage students to understand and respect diversity of beliefs, cultures and religious practices. The academy will strive to achieve accreditation as a 'UNESCO rights-respecting school'. It has a commitment to a balanced and inclusive approach to political and religious themes. There is no evidence of partisan political perspectives in the academy's documentation.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. All the required policy documents have been produced, including appropriate policies for safeguarding, behaviour management (including rewards, sanctions and exclusions), the prevention of bullying, safer recruitment, and first aid. Appropriate members of staff have received training to the required levels in child protection, safer recruitment and first aid, including the designated lead person for child protection. Arrangements are in place for the training of all staff in child protection as part of the induction process before the academy opens, so that requirements will be met. Procedures for the appointment of staff meet the regulatory requirements.

Suitable policies and procedures have been prepared for all aspects of health and safety, including fire safety. A fire emergency action plan has been prepared but risk assessments for the premises and for fire safety have not been completed, and the required visit and report from the fire authority have not yet been arranged. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically on the academy's management information system; appropriate templates are in place for these. The academy has planned appropriately to increase access to the premises, the curriculum and information for students over a three-year period.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the academy 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 fire authority report for the premises (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The academy's planning for the completion of all the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all the regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the trustees, governors and staff appointed to date. Details of these checks are being entered on to a suitable single central register as they are received. The academy does not intend to appoint supply staff but is aware of the required procedures should such staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The academy is likely to meet all the regulations. The newly-built premises are nearing completion and plans indicate that they will be ready for handover to the academy in readiness for the agreed opening date. The site was visited and all regulatory requirements were inspected. The Education Funding Agency is managing the building programme on behalf of the Trustees. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

The full premises will be completed and handed over to the academy in two planned phases up to 30 November 2013. Progress with the building indicates an earlier completion date. Phase one, due for completion before the academy opens, provides sufficient accommodation and facilities for the Year 7 entry to be admitted initially. There are sufficient classrooms of various sizes, including specialist subject facilities. New furniture is on order and is suitable to fully equip the accommodation. There are sufficient washrooms for students and staff, and a medical room which is appropriate for use by any student who may be ill. There are sufficient drinking fountains on each floor of the building, and arrangements for safe temperature control of hot water. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. There is sufficient outside space for play and recreation, including all-weather and grassed surfaces. The academy's accommodation and the site are both fully secure.

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

- **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 academy 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 for the premises (paragraph 13).

Recommended number of day pupils: 600

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11–16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.