

# 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	Hadlow Rural Community School
DfE registration number	886/4005
Unique reference number (URN)	139475
Inspection number	422504
Inspection dates	5 June 2013
Reporting inspector	David Scott



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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.<sup>1</sup>

## **Context of the school**

Hadlow Rural Community School is a free school, to be located on the site of Hadlow College, which is a college of further and higher education specialising in land-based education. The school is sponsored by Hadlow College and is due to open on 2 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 330 boys and girls from ages 11 to 16. It will admit students in Years 7 and 10 in its first year.

At present there are 77 students registered for enrolment. Currently there are 22 students who are disabled or have special educational needs and three students have a statement of educational needs. For the academic year 2013-14, the school will open in existing buildings and temporary accommodation, and plans are to move to a new school building by September 2015, located on the college campus. The school aims to be a 'land-based centre of excellence, rooted in innovation, creating a world-class school in a rural environment, and providing a life time of opportunities for each student'.

## **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 intended ethos, based on high aspirations and expectations, together with the promotion of educational opportunities for all and an understanding of citizenship and the roles of individuals within the wider community, is an integral part of its planned provision for personal, social and health education. Working in partnership with local community organisations, the planned curriculum aims to give learners a wide experience of cultural issues, together with an understanding of public institutions and services in England. The proprietors have ensured, through detailed guidance contained in the staff handbook, that the planned curriculum, including provision for students' personal development, is free from partisan political or religious views and that where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented. A programme of visits and outside speakers is planned to develop students' insights into the working of the civil law in England. Students will take part in a number of community projects, including taking part in a local recycling initiative and by running the college farm shop, located nearby. The school aims to develop learners' appreciation of the values of self-discipline, responsibility, respect, trust and cooperation so that all students will

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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)

behave appropriately and become informed and responsible citizens who are able to contribute and represent themselves confidently in public and community life. The planned assembly programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, is intended to support the citizenship programme in providing pupils with the opportunity to appreciate and respect the diversity of various traditions and cultures in the local community.

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

Documentary evidence indicates that all the regulations are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. The school has prepared all the required policy documents, including those for safeguarding students, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. All staff appointed to date have been trained in child protection and safeguarding students. For those staff still to be appointed, providers and dates have been identified for them to complete their safeguarding training before the school opens. Suitable arrangements are in place for fire safety risk assessments and a planned report from the fire authority. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. An equalities plan makes a general commitment to providing equality of access for disabled students and the school has prepared a three-year plan to improve access.

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

The school has completed all the required checks on staff and governors appointed to date and all regulations are likely to be met. The checks are included on a single central register, which will be updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of the information required from agencies should supply staff be required.

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

A tour of the site confirmed that the school is likely to meet almost all the regulations. The school is to be located in existing buildings on the college campus which are currently not in use and are about to undergo refurbishment. The current accommodation is designed to provide a suite of attractive classrooms with sufficient space for 20 students in each class. There are sufficient washrooms, including one disabled toilet. Orders for suitable new furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to be delivered ready for the opening of the school in September. The school has not included in the plans for the provision of a medical room in the present accommodation, although during the site visit a suitable area was identified, and there are plans for such a room in the proposed new building.

There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. The outside area provides students with a safe and secure environment for play and recreation, including access to the college's extensive playing fields and leisure facilities. For physical education, the school will make use of the college's extensive provision, which include showers and changing facilities.

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

- provide accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of students (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
- make suitable provision for any students who may be sick or injured (paragraph 23B(1)(b)).

## **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

## **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The school meets 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:**

- provide accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of students (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
- make suitable provision for any students who may be sick or injured (paragraph 23B(1)(b)).

Recommended number of day pupils: 330

Recommended age range: 11–16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.