

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

School name	Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio School
DfE registration number	889/
Unique reference number (URN)	1413
Inspection number	422034
Inspection dates	16 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Zahid Aziz

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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 proposed Darwen Enterprise Studio School is to be located temporarily in a building which houses Darwen Aldridge Community Academy, close to Darwen town centre in Blackburn within Darwen Borough. After approximately one year, refurbishment of the studio school's permanent future home will be completed. These premises are a few minutes away from the temporary accommodation. The studio school is sponsored by the Aldridge Foundation and is to be run by Darwen Academy Trust. It is due to open on 2 September 2013 with 40 Year 10 and 31 Year 12 students who are currently registered for enrolment. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 300 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 19 years (adjusted to 71 students for the current building until the new building is ready in September 2014). It is intended that the school will admit students with special educational needs. Three students registered for enrolment have statements of special educational needs. The proposed studio school has no religious affiliation. It intends to focus on professional learning, work experience, and life skills.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The studio school is likely to meet all of the regulations but implementation could not be seen as the school has yet to open. The policy on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development shows that students will be provided with a holistic education that will explore and develop their own values, beliefs and spiritual awareness. Students will have opportunities to self-reflect and recognise their unique potential. The school will encourage students to treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. There are appropriate rewards and sanctions to encourage positive behaviour. Students will acquire an understanding of the difference between right and wrong; they will develop an awareness of civil and criminal law and develop concern for others. Students will be encouraged to become members of 'families and communities' at local, national and global levels, for example, by taking part in 'Fair Trade' activities. Students will also have opportunities to develop the skills, qualities and attitudes they need to be active contributors to the democratic process in their communities. At school, they will participate in school improvement activities such as 'student voice' and revising the initial policies on behaviour management. Students will be encouraged to respect their own cultures and those of others through the

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

personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme, visits and visitors. The PSHE programme and outside visits will also help them to gain an understanding of public institutions in England. There is no indication from schemes of work or other planning that any political bias will be tolerated or promoted in lessons or in other activities.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for welfare, health and safety. Implementation could not be evaluated as the school is not operating. The documentary evidence indicates that all the required policies and procedures are in place, which includes appropriate policies for safeguarding, behaviour management and anti-bullying. The first aid policy includes appropriate guidance on a wide range of issues, for example the safe handling of blood spillage. All staff have an appropriate level of safeguarding training. The designated safeguarding officer has been trained at the correct level. The school has made arrangements to ensure that all staff are recruited following its code of safer recruitment. The school has a working level agreement with the parent academy on the same site that will give it access to many facilities such as trained staff for first aid. It has prepared suitable policies for health and safety including risk assessments related to individuals, learning activities and trips. Premises and fire safety risk assessments have been carried out for the area to be used by the studio school. The whole campus complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The studio school meets the requirement for admission and attendance registers. The school has devised an accessibility improvement plan in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and this will be updated when it moves to the new building.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met in this standard, as is evident from the school's policy and procedures for safe recruitment. The school has ensured that all required checks have been completed for staff and governors. The school has compiled an appropriate single central register of the checks on the suitability of staff and governors and all the checks have been suitably recorded. At present, the school has no plans to use supply staff, but staff are aware of their responsibilities in this respect if the need arises. The school is also aware of its duty to inform the Disclosure and Barring Service with regard to any person who is not suitable to work with children.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The premises are likely to meet all requirements. The studio school is in temporary premises that are used by the Darwen Aldridge Community Academy; it combines high quality learning environments with a range of recreational facilities. The building is spacious, with all of the required facilities, such as changing rooms, showers and labelled sources of water to drink. In the first phase, the studio school will modify and convert five large existing rooms providing three classrooms, one Microsoft computer suite and an Apple computer suite, based on the ground floor. These are

likely to be ready in time for the September opening. Staff and students will have access to the rest of the building and will share some facilities with the parent academy, such as the sports hall. At all times, the studio school's students will be supervised by their own staff. There is a suitable and safe outdoor play space. There is an appropriate area allocated for those students who may become ill and which meets requirements. There are sufficient toilet facilities for staff, boys and girls. There are disabled toilets on the ground floor and there is an existing lift giving access to the restaurant and other facilities on the upper floor for those with a physical disability.

The second phase of the studio school and the required refurbishment is expected to be completed in time for the academic year beginning September 2014. The building process is being overseen by the Department's delivery agent, the Education Funding Agency. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress directly with the agency.

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: 71 in the present premises, 300 in September 2014

Recommended age range: 14-19 years

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 (and then expands) that the planned building works have been completed. The inspector has discussed with the school the requirement for a material change application when the new premises are ready.