

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

School name	Bristol Technology & Engineering Academy
DfE registration number	803/4001
Unique Reference Number (URN)	1495
Inspection number	428095
Inspection dates	19 August 2013
Reporting inspector	Colin Mackinlay

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 Bristol Technology & Engineering Academy will be a University Technical College and is to be located in new premises in Stoke Gifford. The school is sponsored by Rolls Royce, Airbus and GKN Aerospace, the University of the West of England and the City of Bristol College. It is due to open on 2 September 2013 and has applied to be registered to admit up to 484 boys and girls in the age range 14 to 19 years. It will admit students in Years 10 and 12 in its first year. There are 212 students registered for enrolment at present, from 52 different schools, with a waiting list for both Year 10 and Year 12. Four of these students have statements of special educational needs and a further 12 will be on the school's register of special educational needs. The school will specialise in engineering with environmental technology and aims 'to develop young people who aspire to succeed in a career in the engineering and environmental technology sectors'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, although implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of personal decisions. There is detailed planned provision to ensure this framework is implemented through its integration into teaching and learning and provision of a tutor framework, an enrichment programme and range of practical projects. The provision has been developed in consultation with the school's sponsors and employers who have contributed to the wider key-skills elements of the planning. The school has conducted a detailed curriculum mapping exercise to provide an overview of planning for students' personal development. Staff will act as tutors and implement this provision through four hours per fortnight of personal and social development activity well as daily contact. This curriculum time will deliver much of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum and all of the religious education. The first eight weeks of the programme have been planned to develop students' self-knowledge, esteem and confidence from the baseline of the school's knowledge of their varied previous PSHE provision. The school's policies promote the principles of distinguishing right from wrong, an appreciation of students' own and other cultures and respect and tolerance for different faiths and

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

beliefs, and include the promotion of respect for the civil and criminal law and providing a broad knowledge of public services and institutions. There are plans for students to contribute positively to the lives of those living and working locally or more widely in the community through the school's local community partnership scheme, as well local events such as the 'Go4SET' community event which the school will host. The school policies and staff handbook explicitly require that partisan political views are not promoted and that balanced presentation of opposing views are presented where political issues are brought to the attention of students.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been formally trained in safer recruitment, and the principles of safer recruitment have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. A provider and dates have been identified for the training of all staff in child protection and the training has been booked to take place before students join the school, so that requirements are likely to be met. The designated person for child protection is trained to the required level and provision for other staff to have this training to cover for his absence from site has been made. Staff have been identified to take responsibility for first aid and will be trained before the school opens, with training firmly booked. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety, although premises and fire safety risk assessments have not yet been completed. These will be part of the building control assessment, scheduled for when construction is complete, so that requirements are likely to be met. The school has planned how staff will be deployed to ensure the proper supervision of pupils. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year Equalities Plan to improve access is in place and is already being implemented in practical terms to make arrangements for a pupil in the new intake who has cerebral palsy.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for staff currently employed and are under way for those appointed to date. Checks for the proprietors have been applied for. The school is supported in this process prior to opening by City of Bristol College and will take over these functions once open. The school is not yet using staff from an employment business but will utilise 1.3 full-time equivalent teachers from a neighbouring school, as well as contract caterers, cleaners and technical support staff. The school was able to provide evidence that it has had written notifications that these staff have had the required checks and that it has ensured that these requirements are incorporated into the contracts being prepared for these services.

All the checks to date are recorded in individual personnel records and also in the single central register.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in purpose-built premises currently under construction. The work is scheduled to be finished in time for the school to open. Detailed plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised and the site was visited with the support of the building contractor. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the school. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

Classrooms are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the planned number on roll. There are sufficient washrooms, changing facilities and showers, all with safely regulated hot water supplies. All areas of the building are fully accessible and there are disabled toilet facilities on each floor. The design of the building has deliberately provided multiple smaller washrooms to more closely resemble a place of work. There is a medical room with washing facilities located close to an accessible toilet. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food, and sources of drinking water are labelled as such. There is sufficient safe outside space for play and recreation. Physical education will be provided at a neighbouring school which is a short walk along the pavement. The school has completed a risk assessment with appropriate controls for managing the transfer of students to these facilities. The buildings and access points to the grounds are fully secure.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school has made all of the required information available to parents and carers directly and has also published it on its website. The school has a clear policy and procedures for the assessment and reporting of students' progress, and will report on progress to parents and carers five times annually with one more detailed written report.

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.** The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of satisfactory premises and fire risk assessments to be conducted as part of the building control certification process. The DfE should check that the building has been completed before opening.