

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a new university technical college (UTC)

School name	Silverstone UTC
DfE registration number	999/1452
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Inspection number	422351
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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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 proprietor, the Silverstone Academy Trust, seeks to establish a university technical college (UTC) for up to 600 male and female students aged 14 to 19 years at premises on the Silverstone Circuit near Towcester, Northamptonshire. The school will specialise in High Performance Engineering and Business and Technical Events Management. It is sponsored by the University of Northampton and Moulton College.

The school intends to open on 16 September 2013 with 120 students in Year 10 and 80 students in Year 12. Initially, there will be seven male students for every female student but the school expects this proportion to reduce to three to two over time. All the teaching staff have been appointed and will undertake an induction programme during the first two weeks of September 2013. The purpose-built premises are nearing completion and the first phase is due to be handed over to the school on 12 August 2013.

The school's vision is to 'boost the economy by ensuring an increased and improved supply of technicians and highly skilled vocationally qualified people'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The proposed provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is appropriate for the age of the school's students and in accord with its vision. The school has devised a comprehensive programme of personal, social and health education and citizenship that will be delivered thematically as an integral part of the curriculum. The school proposes to offer students a wide range of social and cultural enrichment activities, including local and residential visits, to promote their personal development and their understanding of the arts, of technology and of public services and institutions in England. A key element of the school's provision will be preparing students for full-time employment through first-hand experience at racing events. The school's policies and procedures promote high expectations of students' behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and respect for others. Students will have many opportunities to develop their confidence and self-esteem through academic, vocational and

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

enrichment activities, and through the college council. Respect for civil law and for the differing views and opinions of others, including those of different faiths and cultures, is woven through the school's curricular programme. The school has taken suitable steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject and, where political issues are brought to the attention of the students, that reasonable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's safeguarding policy reflects the guidance provided by the Secretary of State and includes suitable references to the local safeguarding board. The designated person for child protection has completed training at the required higher level and the entire staff team will undergo safeguarding training as part of their induction programme. A firm timetable seen on this inspection visit indicates that this will take place before the school admits its first students on 16 September 2013. A member of the senior leadership team involved in appointing staff has completed recognised training in safe recruitment procedures. The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff. All the required checks are being made and recorded on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in the school and when on visits, meet requirements. A suitable record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour. The new premises have been planned to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The school has arranged for a risk assessment to be completed and for the local fire officer to confirm compliance prior to the school admitting its first students. The school has due regard to the Equality Act 2010, with an access improvement plan ensuring full access to the premises, the curriculum and to information. The first aid policy meets requirements; it is planned to train staff in first aid procedures during their induction before the school admits its first students. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance registers that reflect requirements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including criminal records checks, as they are appointed. These are systematically recorded on the school's single central register. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness and any other checks, are complete for those already in post and are in the process of being completed for others as they are appointed. The school obtains and checks written references on all applicants in line with safe recruitment guidelines.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. The construction and fitting out of the first phase of the new accommodation is well on track for handover on 12 August 2013. The timetable for the delivery and installation of furnishings and equipment has been agreed with suppliers and contractors. The discussions with the project manager during this inspection visit, together with scrutiny of plans, indicate a high quality of finish and fitness for purpose. Electricity and water supplies are connected and the liquid petroleum gas storage plant is completed. Arrangements have been made for the maintenance of the premises and to ensure that they are kept clean and tidy. The standards of decoration, inside and outside lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring specified are likely to meet requirements. There is suitable access, including a lift for people with physical disabilities. Planned emergency exit routes provide free passage to safety.

The specification indicates that the provision of teaching space, study areas, and furnishings and fittings is likely to meet requirements. All teaching rooms will have multi-media facilities. A science laboratory, computer suite and specialist engineering facilities are to be fitted out in time for the school's opening. A spacious outdoor balcony will provide staff and students with a panoramic view of the racetrack and circuit facilities. There will be provision for physical education and games on the school site, complete with changing facilities and showers. All the requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies are likely to be met. The plans include sufficient washroom facilities for the number of students on roll when the building is at its capacity from September 2014 together with staff and visitors. There are to be suitable washroom facilities for disabled people. The school's proposed medical room for students will be appropriately fitted and furnished and is likely to meet requirements. A suitable area of hard standing and grass will be available for students' daily recreation within in a secure area. The security of the building and grounds is likely to meet requirements. The school is situated within its own compound and there is a high security fence on the boundary with the racetrack. Service buses and coaches will drop-off and collect students from within the compound at the start and finish of the school day. Access to the building will be by graded swipe cards which will carry the name and the photograph of the bearer.

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.**

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the planned risk assessments and building works have been completed.

Recommended number of day pupils: 600

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.