

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

---

School name	Hope Community School
DfE registration number	303/2041
Unique reference number (URN)	139561
Inspection number	422362
Inspection dates	4 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Scott

## **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**

Hope Community School is a free school and will be located on the site of a former independent school. This building is about to undergo refurbishment and is due to be completed by the end of August. The school is sponsored by The New Generation Schools Trust and is due to open on 5 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 210 boys and girls from ages four to 11. It will admit children aged four to five in its first year. At present there are 25 children registered for enrolment. It is not yet known how many children have special educational needs or who will be in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. In September 2013, the phase 2 building programme will commence with the demolition of a former community hall adjacent to the school, where a new two-storey building will be erected to accommodate children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The school's mission, based on Christian values, is that Hope Community School will be 'the heartbeat of the community, reaching out to local families to increase children's aspirations, encouraging a spirit of adventure and maximising each child's talents and gifts, believing that each child is filled with possibility'.

## **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 will centre on five themes: 'adventure, openness, creativity, excellence and Christian values'. The planned personal, social, and health education (PSHE) curriculum will reflect this ethos by taking learning out into the local community, having exciting themes that link to the community and positively impact upon it, being open to the pupils' families and instilling good manners and strong moral values for life. The school aspires to help children to appreciate the value of being of service to the local and global communities. It intends to help children to learn the importance of being hospitable and putting others before themselves in order to become responsible citizens by developing an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England. The thread of Christian values will permeate the intended programme of collective worship, for children all faith and

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

non-faith groups, a self-belief in their own 'great worth and their place in the world'. The school and sponsor are committed to 'investing in the local community' in order to 'encourage hope and aspirations' for children to make the best of themselves, see the best in others, irrespective of their faith or religion, and celebrate diversity. The inclusion and equalities policies together with the staff handbook gives details to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

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

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. Policies for safeguarding for child protection, including safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-harassment and anti-bullying have been prepared in accordance with requirements. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safeguarding, safer recruitment and child protection. For those members of staff still to be appointed, dates have been identified, and the local authority has been appointed, to provide the required training in child protection and safeguarding procedures. Suitable policies and risk assessments have been completed for all required aspects of health and safety, including fire safety, and a visit from the fire officer has been booked. The behaviour policy states that 'staff and students will treat each other in the same way that they would wish to be treated'. This will form the basis for positive behaviour management within the school, based on the 'guiding principle of the golden rule'. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically, and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year accessibility improvement plan provides a commitment to review the equality of access for disabled pupils.

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

All requirements are likely to be met. All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are captured in a single central record. If the need arises, the school will employ supply staff and has appropriate procedures in place to conduct the checks on such staff.

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

Scrutiny of the architect's plans and scope of works and a tour of the site confirms that the refurbishment of the building is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Heating and lighting systems are likely to meet requirements. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide appropriate and stimulating learning resources for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The access policy details arrangements for disabled children to be admitted to the school. An appropriate number of washrooms will be available for the proposed number of children on roll, including a toilet for disabled

users. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to children. The planned medical room will be located close by to the reception area, with toilets located nearby. The outside areas to the Early Years Foundation Stage are sufficient for learning and recreation and plans are in place to install gated access and a covered area to provide a safe and secure environment for children to learn through play. Scrutiny of the architect's plans and scope of works for the new building on the same site confirms that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September 2014, which will include a dining hall, food preparation area and suitable classroom provision for the anticipated numbers on roll. An appropriate number of washrooms is planned, including three disabled toilets, a medical room and a lift to both floors.

### **Provision of information**

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

### **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. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 210

Recommended age range: 4–11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.