

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

School name	The Olive School, Blackburn
DfE registration number	889/
Unique reference number (URN)	1412
Inspection number	422303
Inspection dates	27 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Lubna 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 Olive School is a Muslim free school located near to the town centre in Blackburn with Darwen. The two buildings to be occupied are currently being used as a girls' secondary school. The school is part of the Tauheedul Free Schools Educational Trust. The school is due to be opened on 2 September 2013 and has applied to be registered for 630 boys and girls in the age range four to 11 years (amended to 240 – see below). The school will start with three Reception classes, three Year 1 and two Year 2 form groups. Already, 240 pupils have been registered for enrolment when the school opens. The school will accept pupils from all communities and faiths, also those with a statement of special educational needs. The school has plans to renovate the two buildings to further advance the facilities for its pupils. The school aims to 'be identified as reflecting a strong faith ethos, promoting educational excellence and community service'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Planning documentation indicates that all regulations in this standard are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school has an appropriate behaviour policy which clearly defines rewards and sanctions. Spiritual aspects of pupils' development are supported through assemblies and religious education. The school intends to involve its pupils in the local community, for example by supporting the 'Big Society Project' to collect money for local projects such as a park. In the wider world, pupils will collect for charities such as 'Save the Children' and Tauheedul Relief Fund in partnership with Book Aid. Through its programme of personal, social and health education, the school will teach its pupils about right and wrong. Visits from the local community support officer and police are planned in the curriculum. These will support a range of other activities in the locality to give pupils an insight into the workings of English institutions and civil law. Pupils will be taught to take responsibility through the student council and acting as peer buddies, salad bar monitors and class monitors. In its planned religious education curriculum, the school will cover the world's five main religions. This will include visits to various places of worship such as a church and synagogue as part of the school's commitment to promote tolerance between

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

different faiths and cultures. The school plans to develop partnerships with other local schools.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school's documentary evidence indicates it is likely to meet all the regulatory requirements for welfare, health and safety although implementation could not be seen. The school has appropriate vetting procedures in place as well as a suitable safeguarding policy. The school has already appointed all the staff and all members of staff have completed appropriate safeguarding training including the senior designated officer for child protection. A suitable behaviour policy is in place with clear rewards and sanctions. The policy on anti-bullying clearly defines bullying and the signs to look for. An appropriate health and safety policy ensures that all necessary risk assessments will be undertaken related to individuals, premises and curriculum, including educational visits. There is a suitable first aid policy and the school has trained a sufficient number of staff for first aid, including paediatric first aid. The school meets attendance and admission register requirements. The school is in full compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. There are necessary checks in place, including a report from the fire authority. The school has devised a three-year accessibility improvement plan and meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met in this standard as seen from the school's planning for safer recruitment and its implementation. All required checks have been completed for staff and governors. An appropriate single central register of the checks on the suitability of staff and governors has been compiled, recording all the required checks. The school has no plans to use supply staff.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The premises and accommodation are likely to meet requirements. The school will occupy two buildings currently used as a temporary secondary girls' school. The school has sufficient classrooms and washroom facilities to cater for the needs of the pupils it intends to admit from September 2013. The school benefits from two halls for physical education, two dining halls and a suitable medical room. There is adequate external space for play and recreation and to accommodate the learning arrangements for the Reception classes. There are appropriate arrangements for drinking water for the pupils within both buildings.

The school intends to have three-form entry for Reception and for Year 1 and two forms for Year 2. The building is appropriate for the number of pupils the school is proposing to admit from September 2013. There are plans to refurbish the existing sites during the summer period and an appropriate date has been set for the completion of work. These renovations will be managed by the Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent on behalf of the trust. On completion of these refurbishments, pupils will benefit from improved outdoor provision, another

medical room, dining facilities, toilets and better computer facilities to support teaching and learning. The school intends to move to another site from September 2014 in order to accommodate the increased number of pupils in the coming years.

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: 240

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 4-11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

Note: The school initially applied for 630 pupils but has now changed the number applied for. On the day of the inspection the school asked to register for 240 pupils only, as it intends to move to permanent premises from September 2014.