

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

School name	City of Peterborough Academy
DfE registration number	874/4003
Unique reference number (URN)	139082
Inspection number	422353
Inspection dates	16 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Declan McCarthy

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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 City of Peterborough Academy is located in the centre of Peterborough with good access to local amenities and public transport. As a new academy it wishes to provide full-time education for up to 1,100 students age 11-19. The academy is directly funded by the Department for Education and proprietorial body is the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust which is a private company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. It will open in September 2013 with its first intake of 79 Year 7 students, who are registered to enrol. Pupils will transfer to the academy from 14 feeder primary schools within central Peterborough. It is to be accommodated in a large refurbished disused school building with an extension. The academy is located on the same site as the City of Peterborough Academy Special School, which is also sponsored by the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust and which caters for pupils within the normal range of ability who are on the autistic spectrum. The keys to the academy are due to be handed over on 5 August. The academy's vision is to ensure that every student receives the best possible education in a calm, controlled environment, enabling self- and mutual respect to develop. The Academy will seek to do this by providing a pleasant learning environment where a stimulating curriculum relevant can be delivered, a supportive, secure care for individual students through the year-based pastoral system, tuition for a wide range of public examinations and a range of enrichment activities and support beyond the normal school day. The academy intends to provide resources and facilities which enhance advanced technological practice using for example, industry standard computers and scientific equipment.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The academy is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation was not seen as it has not yet opened. There are a wide range of well-written policies and procedures to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The planned weekly tutor programme and the system of rewards, including achievement assemblies, will promote the development of students' self-esteem and build their confidence. Students' moral development will be promoted through personal social and health education topics on anti-bullying and racism. The code of conduct, which is written in each student's planner, and the discipline policy will also promote moral

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

development. Planned educational visits from a theatre company will raise awareness on drugs misuse. Visits from the community police officer and convicted offenders will enable students to develop respect for the civil law and deepen their awareness of the consequences of crime. Students will be encouraged to show initiative and contribute to the local and wider community, through fund raising, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and conservation work. Students will deepen their understanding of the work of public institutions through a series of planned visits such as Parliament, the public library, citizens' advice bureau, banks and the post office. Their appreciation of cultural diversity will be promoted through planned visits to the cathedral and local mosque, in art, music, history and geography and through the celebration of world festivals. Students will be encouraged to respect the rule of civil law and British values of democracy. There are clear guidelines for staff not to promote partisan political views when teaching any subject or undertaking any outside activity with pupils.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The academy is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation was not seen. A range of well-thought-out policies and procedures are in place to promote the well-being and safety of students. There is a clear safeguarding and child protection policy which provides guidance on various forms of abuse, specifies the designated persons for child protection and provides useful contact details of the local safeguarding board and other agencies. The academy's documentation confirms that all new staff will receive the required training in safeguarding on 2 September 2013, one week before students are admitted. Robust procedures are in place to manage students' behaviour through a hierarchy of appropriate rewards and sanctions linked to a clear code of conduct. The anti-bullying policy provides useful guidance to staff on all aspects of bullying and specifies clear roles and responsibilities. Procedures for assessing risk, including any potential risks to students on educational visits are detailed and rigorous. Clear policies on health and safety and first aid are in place. There are sufficient trained first aiders. The academy's plans show that the fire risk assessment and visit from the fire authority are scheduled for 2 August 2013 and appropriate protocols for the regular checking of fire appliances and electrical equipment are in place. The academy has a clear policy to promote equality. This includes a three-year plan to improve accessibility with the installation of disabled toilets, ramps and a lift.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met. All newly appointed staff and proprietors have been vetted as to their suitability to work with children as seen in the single central record. Recommended checks for identity, qualifications, where appropriate, the right to work in the United Kingdom and checks on medical fitness have been carried out. Currently there are no supply staff but the academy has clear procedures in place to check on the suitability of supply staff from an employment business should they be required in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The academy is likely to meet the regulations. The two storey refurbished building and extension are decorated to a high standard, well-lit and ventilated. The old oil fired central heating system has been replaced with a more efficient gas central heating system with radiators in all corridors, offices, meeting rooms and classrooms. There are five drinking fountains, which will be clearly labelled as drinking water due to be installed at key points in the academy. There are ample separate washrooms for students and staff with adequate shower and changing facilities and a designated medical room with a sink for students who may be ill. There is a range of well-equipped classrooms and practical areas. These include new technology rooms, new science facilities and a range of smaller break-out teaching areas and offices for small group work or mentoring. All classrooms benefit from the installation of interactive whiteboards. The separate sports hall, assembly hall and dining room have been refurbished to a high standard. Outdoor recreational areas for students are spacious and safe. These include an athletics track, tennis courts, netball pitch, soccer and rugby pitches.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet all the 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.**

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 1,100

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.