

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	Perry Beeches III
DfE registration number	999/1525
Unique reference number (URN)	1525
Inspection number	424341
Inspection dates	16 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Young

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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

Perry Beeches III The Free School is to be located in the Ladywood area of central Birmingham. It is sponsored by the Perry Beeches Academy Trust which also runs Perry Beeches II Free School. Perry Beeches III will provide education for up to 620 students in the age range 11 to 19 years. The school will admit 100 students into Year 7 in September, together with 60 students into the sixth form. The sixth form will operate jointly with the existing Perry Beeches II. The school will be non-selective and will include students who are disabled or who have special educational needs. The school aims to provide 'accelerated student learning and achievement, based on high expectations, leading to accreditation at GCSE and A level'. It will aim to 'develop young people able to take their place in society through personalised learning and engagement with local communities and businesses'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations but implementation could not be seen. The education vision for the school sets out to develop 'students who are academically successful, articulate, respectful and confident ... young people who are equipped with the skills necessary to be a success in a competitive market environment'.

The school's policies and procedures for the management of behaviour and the prevention of bullying set out a framework to ensure that students understand the difference between right and wrong, understand the workings of civil law and develop appropriate behaviours which will equip them to take on the responsibilities of adult life. The planned citizenship and personal, social and health education programme is designed to encourage students to develop self-esteem and to contribute to the community beyond the school. A number of events within the planned calendar will enable students to celebrate a variety of cultural and religious festivals and to develop respect for diversity in the wider community. Students will have the opportunity to take on a variety of roles within the school community which will enable them to participate in democratic processes and to participate in the life of the school community. The school, through its relationship with the existing Perry Beeches schools, has established close links with a number of community

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

organisations which will contribute to the curriculum and enable students to take an active part in community activities beyond the school. For example, a neighbourhood Task Group was set up by students in the Perry Beeches group of schools and students will be encouraged to play an active part. This task group provides a strong forum for exposing students to the various public institutions and services which impact on the life of the nation. The planned curriculum is free from any political or religious views and students are encouraged to develop balanced views on such topics.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. All the required policy documents have been prepared, including comprehensive procedures for the management of behaviour, the prevention of bullying, and first aid. Policies and procedures for safeguarding and for the safe recruitment of staff provide a secure basis for ensuring the welfare of students. Senior members of staff have been trained in safe recruitment. The designated person for child protection has been trained appropriately and sufficient staff are trained for first aid. Arrangements are in place to provide appropriate child protection training for all staff as part of the planned induction programme before the school opens. The comprehensive health and safety policy includes appropriate arrangements for regular routine checks on all aspects of fire safety, and is supplemented with suitable procedures for the management of educational visits and for the evacuation of the premises in the event of fire. The health and safety policy acknowledges the need for a premises safety assessment and a fire risk assessment to be completed and monitored. These risk assessments have not yet been completed nor has a fire safety report been obtained from the local fire officer. Suitable arrangements are in place for the maintenance of an electronic admission register, for the completion of attendance registers and for the recording of any incidents and sanctions applied. A suitable three-year plan to increase accessibility has been produced, with appropriate monitoring arrangements.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

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 the required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date and details entered on a suitable single central register. New

entries are completed as further information is received by the school. The school does not intend to appoint supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should such appointments be made.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in a new building, constructed as office accommodation but currently unoccupied. The premises are being refurbished in two stages, in line with detailed plans which conform with the regulatory requirements. The detailed plans show a suitable number of teaching spaces of appropriate size; the required number of separate washrooms for boys, girls, staff and visitors; appropriate facilities for preparation and serving of food; a suitable medical room and sufficient outside space for play and recreation. The plans include changing rooms and showers for those physical education activities which will take place on site; suitable off-site facilities will also be used. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the foundation. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency. Discussion with the trust's representative demonstrates that plans are in place for ensuring that hot water temperatures are appropriately monitored and controlled and that drinking water will be provided through dedicated drinking fountains.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**
 - the school should comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
 - the school should comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13)

Recommended number of day pupils: 620

Recommended number of boarders: Not applicable

Recommended age range: 11–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.

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