

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

School name	Nanaksar Primary School
DfE registration number	312/2022
Unique reference number (URN)	139926
Inspection number	422390
Inspection dates	16 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 2008.¹

Context of the school

Nanaksar Primary School is a free school which will be co-located on the site of Guru Nanak Sikh Academy (GNSA), a 3–18 academy. The school is sponsored by the Nanaksar Isher Darbar Trust and is due to open on 3 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 840 boys and girls from ages 4 to 11. It will admit children aged 4 to 5 in its first year. At present, there are 111 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, phase 1 of the school building programme will open for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, using existing classrooms in GNSA. From October 2013, phase 2 will open in temporary modular accommodation, which will be sited next to the existing primary classrooms of the GNSA. Phase 3 will culminate in the completion of a purpose-built primary school, located on the same site and due to open in September 2014. The school's mission, based on Sikhism, aims to enable 'all pupils to work hard to realise their full potential, intellectually, morally, physically, personally and socially and where the values of hard work and self-less service are promoted'.

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 build a strong community based on the principles of Sikhism; equipping pupils to respond to an ever-changing society; focused on achieving high attainment; developing pupils' self-esteem, confidence and independence and showing consideration for others; strengthening the bonds between home, school and community; and encouraging every member of the community to invest in lifelong learning and personal development. The planned personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum will reflect this ethos, and will 'be responsive to the cultural backgrounds and needs of all pupils, all of whom, whether of a particular faith or none, will be equally valued'. The proposed assembly programme will bring all pupils together for collective worship for shared faith or

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

multifaith festivals, and class assemblies. It will enable pupils to explore key world religions and cultures, reflecting their differences and similarities. The school prospectus states that, 'All aspects of Nanaksar school life will promote an outward looking approach valuing the contribution of all pupils.' The programme will examine local and global communities, so that all children will become responsible citizens by developing an understanding of civil law and public institutions and services in England.

The planned curriculum will be delivered through the themed International Primary Curriculum (IPC), and will 'broaden cultural awareness combined with an international dimension'. The school and sponsor are committed to forming partnerships that will provide children with the 'values of humility, hard work and selfless service to others' in order to give greater insight to the planned curriculum. The PSHE policy, staff handbook and staff contracts give details ensuring 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. The school has prepared all the required policy documents, including those for safeguarding and child protection, safer recruitment and selection, behaviour, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safe recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. All staff appointed to date have been trained in child protection and safeguarding. For those staff still to be appointed, providers and dates have been identified for them to complete their safeguarding, child protection and first aid training so that requirements will be met. The behaviour policy sets out detailed expectations of both staff and children with an appropriate suite of rewards and sanctions procedures. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety, including fire safety risk assessments. As the school will be located at GNSA, and no remodelling of classrooms will be needed, fire checks and a report by the local fire officer have been completed. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year access development plan provides details to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body have been made and are captured in a single central record. The school does not intend to employ supply staff, but if the need arises, 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 a tour of the site confirms that the building is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide appropriate ICT provision and stimulating learning resources for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Heating, lighting and air-conditioning systems are likely to meet requirements. The accessibility plan details arrangements for disabled children to be admitted to the school. An appropriate number of washrooms will be available for the proposed initial number of children on roll, including three disabled toilets, and a lift to both floors. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to children. The medical room, with a sink, will be located close to the reception area, with toilets located nearby. The outside areas to the Early Years Foundation Stage are adequate for learning and recreation, and plans are in place to install a canopied area to provide a safe and secure environment for children to learn through play. Architects' plans for phases 2 and 3 of the building programme were scrutinised and these offer an appropriate number and quality of classrooms, washrooms and other indoor and outdoor facilities for the anticipated numbers of children on roll at each stage of development.

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: 840

Recommended age range: 4–11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school as it expands that the planned building works have been completed.