

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a university technical college (UTC)

School name	Sheffield UTC
DfE registration number	373/1434
Unique reference number (URN)	1434
Inspection number	422330
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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

The UTC Sheffield occupies a former car park and industrial premises in the centre of Sheffield. The primary sponsors for the college are Sheffield College, Hallam University and the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce. The local authority has taken a supportive, proactive stance in the development of the college, including donating the site for the premises. A number of industrial and business organisations, together with representatives from Hallam University and the University of Sheffield, are represented on the governing body of the college and are playing a full part in the development of the curriculum. The college will specialise in preparing students in the age range 14 to 19 years for employment in advanced engineering and manufacturing, and creative and digital media. The college seeks registration for 600 students and is due to open in September 2013 with a proposed intake of 300 students; 270 students have been recruited to date.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations but implementation could not be seen. The college prospectus makes clear that every student will have a personal learning plan and will be supported as an individual to reach their potential and achieve their ambitions. The college's stated aim is to, 'inspire and nurture young people to develop as rounded individuals with the confidence, independence, outlook and capabilities to follow whatever paths they choose in life.' These aims are appropriately supported by a policy for personal, social and health education that sets out the themes and activities which will contribute to students' preparation for adult life. Guidance on making personal choices and essential information to aid sound decision-making is included in the programme. It also provides for students to learn about democracy, the civil and criminal law, substance abuse, sex education, rights and responsibilities, future planning and target setting, and discrimination. The teaching programme is supported by suitable policies for managing behaviour and the prevention of bullying which set the standards and expectations for all members of the college community.

An enrichment programme forms part of the core experience for all students. This is planned to include cultural and arts events hosted by community providers, visits to local cultural and community locations, charity events and opportunities for students

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

to take part in democratic processes through the college's 'Student Voice' arrangements. Each student will commit to pledges which include representing the college at a sporting, cultural or academic event, a formal presentation to an audience and helping to organise or plan a major fundraising event. Projects related to sustainability and being actively involved in a community experience and an international experience, are intended to develop an understanding of active citizenship and the impact of local, national and global institutions. College policies make a commitment to ensuring equality, respecting all cultures and beliefs, and ensuring that a balanced perspective is considered in all controversial issues.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. The college has produced a range of policies and procedures in line with regulatory requirements, including those for safeguarding, behaviour management and the prevention of bullying, safe recruitment and first aid. Training for the two designated persons for child protection has been booked and a date arranged prior to the college's opening for the training of all staff in child protection, so that requirements are likely to be met. Training for a lead person for first aid has been completed and others are to be trained. Suitable policies for health and safety, including fire safety, have been prepared. Final checks on the safety of the premises, including a fire risk assessment and report from the fire authority, have not been possible to date, as the building work is not yet completed and the building standards compliance certificate has not been issued. Suitable electronic formats for maintaining the admission and attendance registers are in place. An appropriate three-year accessibility improvement plan has been produced.

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

- ensure that the completed premises and accommodation present no health and safety risks to students, staff and other users, in line with the requirements of the college's health and safety policy (paragraph 11)
- carry out and record a formal fire risk assessment and obtain a report from the fire authority for the completed premises and accommodation, and ensure that the college's building standards compliance certificate has been issued (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The college's planning for the completion of checks on the suitability of all staff, and implementation to date, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. The headteacher has attended training in safer recruitment and is implementing suitable procedures in line with the college's policy. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for all staff appointed to date. Details of all checks are entered onto a suitable single central register as checks are completed. No supply

staff have been appointed to date but the college is aware of the statutory requirements should such staff be appointed in future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations. The college is being built on the site of a former car park and industrial premises in the centre of Sheffield. Detailed plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised and the partly-completed premises were visited. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the building project and the Department will wish to monitor progress directly with the agency.

The premises and accommodation are suitable for the proposed curriculum and are on target for handover in late July 2013. The building project has proceeded sufficiently for confirmation that the teaching spaces are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the proposed registered number of students. There are sufficient washrooms and suitable medical facilities. There are appropriate facilities for serving food with labelled drinking water dispensers. There is adequate, safe outside space for recreation. There are suitable showers and changing rooms for those aspects of the physical education curriculum which are to be taught on site.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet 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 matters outlined above.**

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