

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

School name	West London Free School Primary School
DfE registration number	215/2001
Unique reference number (URN)	139546
Inspection number	422387
Inspection dates	18 June 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

West London Free School Primary will eventually be located on the same site as the secondary free school of the same name. The school is not sponsored and is due to open on 5 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 420 boys and girls from ages four to 11. It will admit children aged four to five in its first year. At present, there are 60 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. For September 2013, the school will open on the site of a former school for pupils with special educational needs, located nearby. The new purpose-built building, located on the secondary free school site, is due to be completed by December 2013. The school's core purpose is to provide 'a classical, liberal education, where every pupil can, and will, succeed'.

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 secular ethos will focus on the core values of 'wisdom, laughter, fellowship, success and perseverance'. The planned well-being programme is the school's alternative to a personal, social, health and education (PSHE) programme, but will include the statutory elements of PSHE, such as drugs awareness and sex and relationships education. This will be 'complemented by art, music, drama and competitive sport, which will instil world-beating ambition in all its pupils, irrespective of their backgrounds'. The whole scheme is designed to develop pupil's social skills, confidence and self-esteem and 'instil a life-long love of learning'. An extensive programme of trips and visits is planned to such places as Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Holland Park and the City Farm. These visits are designed to broaden pupils' cultural horizons, globally and within the local community. They will help to ensure that all pupils can develop an understanding of civil law and public institutions and services in England.

The planned well-being curriculum and assembly programme linked to the 'core values and virtues' is intended to provide pupils with the opportunity to appreciate

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

and respect traditions and cultures other than their own. Social development will be further promoted by allowing learners to take on posts of responsibility within the house structure whereby they will be able to hone their leadership skills. The staff handbook provides information to ensure that lessons will be free from partisan political views and that, where any religious or 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 procedures for health and safety, evacuation and planning educational visits. The premises and fire safety risk assessments have been completed and a visit from the fire officer has been arranged. High standards will be expected not only of behaviour but also of dress and appearance and be contained within the 'Code of Conduct', where 'strong discipline and academic rigour will enable all pupils to reach their potential'. Appropriate electronic attendance and admission registers are ready for use. The school has in place a three-year accessibility plan to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

The school has policies in place for safeguarding, safer recruitment and first aid. All staff and governors appointed to date have been trained in safer recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. For those staff still to be appointed, dates have been identified for them to complete their safeguarding and child protection training with the local authority before the school opens.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All appointed staff to date are suitably vetted and these checks are captured in a single central record which includes members of the governing body. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but, if the need arises, appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

An extensive on-site visit to the former special school building confirms that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. The installation of washrooms is satisfactory, including one disabled toilet. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide a learning environment suitable for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The access policy details arrangements for disabled children to be admitted to the school. A suitable medical room is planned next to the reception area, with washrooms nearby. The outside area to the Early Years Foundation Stage is limited but adequate. Plans are in place to landscape this area with appropriate soft matting which will provide a safe and secure environment for children to play and learn in. Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works for the new building on the secondary free school site confirms that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in December 2013. There will be sufficient classrooms for the planned

number on roll. An appropriate number of washrooms are planned, including two disabled toilets, medical room and a lift to both floors. There is a suitable play area.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:

Recommended number of day pupils: 420

Recommended age range: 4–11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.