

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

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School name	Connell Sixth Form College
DfE registration number	352/
Unique reference number (URN)	1427
Inspection number	422323
Inspection dates	11 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Sheila Boyle

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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.<sup>1</sup>

## Context of the school

Connell Sixth Form College plans to operate from premises within East Manchester Academy until a new purpose-built college is built on a former industrial estate nearby. The college is sponsored by Bright Futures Educational Trust and plans to open on 2 September 2013. It is intended that the college will move to the new building in September 2014. The college has applied to be registered to admit, in its first year, 120 boys and girls in the age range 16 to 19, rising to a maximum of 600 over a three-year period. The college will be non-selective and it intends to admit some students with special educational needs. The college aims to develop in students the highest of aspirations, ambitions and self-belief so that they become independent critical thinkers and fulfil their potential.

## Compliance with the regulations

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The regulations are likely to be met by the planning seen although implementation cannot be checked until the college opens. The college aims to develop an ethos of respect and understanding and to give students a clear model of what is right and wrong. The planned provision encompasses the development of self-awareness, self-confidence, the acceptance of responsibility for behaviour and developing understanding of how to make a contribution to the college and local and wider communities. Social development will be promoted through group activities in college, work experience, visitors and visits off the site. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies aim to promote good relationships that allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way. Policies relating to personal, social and health education, religious education, equality of opportunity and citizenship confirm the college's intention to help its students to develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England, and to have an insight into different religions and cultures as well as democracy and the rule of civil law. There is no evidence that political views will be presented in anything other than a balanced way. The trust's strong links with local businesses and higher education establishments including local and national universities will be used to encourage and assist students to pursue academic and vocational courses.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

## **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The college's policies and procedures indicate that the regulations are likely to be met although implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Staff appointed have had relevant training in child protection and the designated child protection officer has the required training. A first aid policy is in place and a member of staff has completed first aid training. Guidance is available on the location of first aid equipment and recording of all accidents. An appropriate educational visits policy includes requirements for risk assessments to be completed. The college has a copy of the building regulations compliance certificate for the whole premises, issued by the building contractor, which includes compliance with fire safety regulations. Copies of these have been sent to the department. Fire evacuation procedures have been documented and fire safety notices are displays throughout the premises. The health and safety representative has identified procedures for risk assessments, including fire risk assessment which requires the regular inspection and maintenance of fire safety equipment. The headteacher is aware of her responsibility to provide appropriate training in fire evacuation once the college opens. A sanctions book and attendance and admission registers are in place. The East Manchester Academy has planned well for accessibility so that the college meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

## **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The college'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 required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. Evidence that all the required checks have taken place is maintained on a single central register. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The college does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities relating to any future use of supply staff and also of its duty to refer any person who is deemed unsuitable for working with children to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

## **Premises and accommodation at the school**

The college is likely to meet all the regulations. The accommodation set aside by the academy for the college to use, is located on its third floor which can be accessed by lift as well as stairs. It has several classrooms including special facilities for science, information and communication technology, performing arts and languages. All classrooms are suitably furnished and well ventilated. Students will have their own common room and staff will have a separate administration suite. There are adequate washrooms for the number of staff and students. The college will have access to the academy's medical room and many of its other facilities including the sports halls, showering and changing facilities and outdoor playing fields. The

students will also have supervised access to the canteen which is open from early morning to late evening.

### **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 for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 120

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 16-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.