

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

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School name	Hackney New School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1477
Inspection number	422384
Inspection dates	19 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Graham Lee

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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

The proposed Hackney New School will be located initially in a three-storey building that has been used for a variety of purposes over the years. The building is currently being converted and is on course to be ready for the first intake of students in September. Thereafter, building work will continue on the site. A fourth storey is being added and another building will be constructed within the enclosed site which will be connected to the existing building by walkways. The new building is expected to be completed long before the proposed 700 pupils are on roll. The school is being set up by a group of five local residents and parents. The school has applied to admit up to 700 boys and girls aged 11 to 18. In the first year it intends to admit students to Year 7 only and currently has 95 registered for enrolment. The school will be non-selective and is committed to including pupils of all backgrounds. The vast majority of students registered are ethnic minority citizens of the United Kingdom, representative of a wide range of backgrounds. More than a quarter of students have identified special educational needs and one is likely to have a statement of special educational needs. The school is committed to academic excellence and fostering creativity and intellectual curiosity, with a special focus on music.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations although implementation could not be seen at this stage. The school's aims and values alongside its policy for 'Promoting Students' Well Being' sets out clearly a vision for students to be provided with 'access to the widest range of opportunities in life'. Students will be encouraged to become reflective and independent learners and thinkers, able to make up their own minds about the information they are presented with. Together with an emphasis on core skills, the school believes this will enable students to take their place as economically viable citizens who make a contribution to society. The proposed extended day will enable students to take part in personal study and a range of enrichment activities. Music and performance will be central to the school's core offer to students and to their cultural development.

The school's expectations of students' behaviour are encapsulated in its behaviour and anti-bullying policies which set how students will be encouraged to develop an

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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)

understanding of right and wrong. The policies are also clear about the consequences of unacceptable behaviour and bullying. The 'core lights' programme will cover all aspects of students' personal development and citizenship and will encourage students to respect the civil and criminal law, supported by a range of visits and visitors from different walks of life. This programme also encompasses religious education and will encourage spiritual reflection from a wide variety of religious and non-religious perspectives. The school is committed to being inclusive and to encourage harmony and team work between students of all abilities and backgrounds. The issue of extremism will be addressed through the 'core lights' programme which also reinforces the presentation of political and other views from a non-partisan perspective so that pupils can make up their own minds about different issues.

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

The school was able to produce all the required policies, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, behaviour management, anti-bullying and health and safety. These are thorough and well conceived and indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Senior staff have been trained in safer recruitment and there are plans for the proprietors to be similarly trained. The principles of safer recruitment have been applied to the appointments made to date. The headteacher is the responsible person for child protection and has received appropriate recent training to the required level. The required basic safeguarding training will form part of the induction training for staff before pupils are admitted and further in-depth child protection training for all staff has been booked for early in the new school year. Thorough policies have been prepared for all aspects of health and safety and fire safety. Detailed fire safety and general risk assessments have been carried out on the school's premises, particularly in relation to the operation of the school whilst building work continues on the site for some time after it is due to open. This will be supported by regular meetings with the representative of the contractors to review the ongoing situation and discuss any issues that may arise. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school has the required access improvement plan in place to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

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

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. These are recorded on a suitable single central register, which meets all requirements. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should supply staff be appointed in the future.

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

The premises are likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in premises adjacent to the canal in Hackney. The school will be housed in a substantial three-storey building which has been used for a variety of purposes over the years. The building is currently vacant and is being converted to meet all regulations by the time it is due to open in September. The inspector was able to see the plans, visit the site and talk to a representative of the contractor. The premises will be suitable to provide appropriately for the Year 7 curriculum to be taught in September, including science laboratories. Classrooms are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the planned intake in September. Given the school's emphasis on music, there will be a number of music rooms providing the appropriate acoustic conditions. Major building work will continue on the site after the proposed opening date of the school. A fourth story will be added and a new building constructed on the enclosed site. The two buildings will be connected by walkways. When the building is completed it is likely to provide well for the full 11-18 age range and the breadth of the curriculum to be taught in Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. It will have a gymnasium and changing rooms and showers to allow physical education to be taught in the school.

New furniture, suitable for the proposed age range on opening, is on order to be delivered ready for the opening of the school in September. There are sufficient washrooms and a suitable medical room. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. The buildings and access points to the grounds are fully secure. In the first year outside space for the students to socialise and play will be limited but sufficient. This will expand as the building develops. There are no playing fields on the site for physical education, but the school plans to make use of a number of local leisure and sports centres with the appropriate changing and shower facilities until the new building is completed.

## **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 and national minimum standards when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 100 in the first year rising to 700 when the school is fully established.

Recommended age range: 11-18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.