

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

School name	St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	139410
Inspection number	422380
Inspection dates	25 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Greg Sorrell

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2013



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 proposed free school, St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School, is to be located in the premises of a former college of further education in the London Borough of Barnet. The premises are located in the North London Business Park in Southgate. By September 2016, it is planned that the school will move into (as yet unbuilt) premises on the same campus. The school does not have a specialism, although it is planned to have a strong emphasis on the classics and it has a Greek Orthodox Christian religious affiliation. Its lead sponsor is the Russell Education Trust and its governing body is made up of members of Classical Education Trust and the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. It is due to open on 2 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 1,050 boys and girls in the age range of 11 to 18 years. It will admit between 80 and 100 students in Year 7 in the first year. There are 80 students registered for enrolment at present, none of whom has a statement of special educational needs. The school aims 'to deliver a broad curriculum and an outstanding quality of education to the local community in North London'.

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 programmes of personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) contain a broad range of activities to promote the students' understanding of right and wrong and the consequences of personal decisions. The programmes include: citizenship; difference and diversity; lifestyle choices; government, democracy and public institutions; puberty and safety. In addition to assemblies, there are timetabled opportunities to discuss topical moral issues and the workings of civil and criminal law in the British law system.

The school is seeking to become established as a focal point in the community. It has already attracted support from the Cockfosters Residents' Association and local Christian churches of other denominations. Governors' meetings sometimes take place in the premises of the Cypriot Brotherhood. There are also planned opportunities for the students to contribute to the local community through visits and fundraising for charities including the North London Hospice and Thalassaemia UK. There are plans for students to visit local primary schools to help develop those

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

pupils' academic skills, particularly in science. Extra-curricular programmes are intended to offer all students enrichment opportunities to engage in sporting and cultural activities.

The school intends to adopt a house system, named after Greek philosophers, that will engender a team ethos within its own community. School leaders place a high priority on racial harmony and tolerance in the wider community, particularly where tensions have historically existed between local ethnic minority groups. The provision for religious education follows the locally agreed syllabus and gives the students opportunities to develop an understanding and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs including those that are non-Christian. There are also schemes of work that include distinctive elements that reflect the school's Greek affiliation, for example classical studies and languages including Latin and also Greek in both modern and ancient forms.

The governors have ensured that the planned curriculum includes appropriate safeguards to ensure that partisan political or religious views are discussed in a balanced way. The teachers' contracts of employment and the staff handbook reinforce this message strongly.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all but one of the regulations are likely to be met. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. In relation to child protection, the headteacher and an assistant headteacher have been trained at the appropriate level to serve as the designated person and deputy respectively. All other appointed staff have received suitable training in child protection. One member of staff is appropriately qualified in first aid and other staff have been identified for similar training. The headteacher has been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date.

Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety with the exception of fire safety. The school has fire guidance for staff in the school handbook but has not completed a fire safety risk assessment. A visit from the fire authority has been arranged for 23 August 2013, following which the required report will be written. Staff have been identified to act as fire wardens, but as yet no training has been booked. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school has a suitable three-year plan to increase accessibility in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment, ensuring an adequate number of staff are trained as fire wardens and arranging a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school has made several appointments in anticipation of the school's opening in September 2013 and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All of the checks to confirm the suitability of the proprietor, staff and others are rigorously carried out and recorded appropriately on a single central register. 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 school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located temporarily, for three years, in the premises of a former college of further education in Barnet. The premises are currently unoccupied and a refurbishment programme is due to start imminently. In addition to a site visit, detailed plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised and discussions were held with the headteacher and the sponsor's project manager for the school. There are regular discussions between all partners and the sponsors have appointed a very experienced professional to monitor the contractor's work. The estimated date of completion is 23 August 2013. The school has a rolling enrolment programme. In its first year, only Year 7 students will be admitted and, in subsequent years, again only Year 7 students will be admitted so that the school grows steadily. Plans and the site visit indicate that classrooms are of adequate size and sufficient in number for the site. The premises are suitable for safe and effective learning. There are existing specialist facilities for science, and other specialist rooms are scheduled to be ready for opening. An audit of residual furniture and new requirements has been made so there will be adequate provision in September. There are sufficient washrooms for staff and students and suitable facilities for medical examinations and for students who may be ill. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food. Suitable arrangements have been made to ensure that the hot water temperature is appropriate and that students have ready access to labelled supplies of drinking water. Heating, acoustics and ventilation are suitably managed, as is the provision of interior and exterior lighting. The school has identified local sporting venues for physical education that have adequate facilities for changing and showering. There is sufficient safe outside space for play and recreation. The buildings and entrances to the grounds are secure.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matter:**
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a fire risk assessment, ensuring an adequate number of staff are trained as fire wardens and arranging a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Recommended number of day pupils: 1,050

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 11 to 18

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

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