

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

---

School name	The Heights Free School
DfE registration number	889/1102
Unique reference number (URN)	139413
Inspection number	422305
Inspection dates	25 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Lubna Aziz

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://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.<sup>1</sup>

## Context of the school

The Heights Free School is an alternative provision free school. It is to be located in the premises of a local authority's alternative provision site in Blackburn with Darwen Borough. The school is part of the Alternative Provision Trust set up by Educational Improvement Partners (EIP) and is due to open on 9 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 120 boys and girls in the age range eight to 16 years (amended to 90 – see below). There are 40 students registered for enrolment at present. The school will be non-selective and is prepared to admit students with special educational needs. The school will accept referrals from local secondary and primary schools, academies and local authorities. The school has plans to refurbish the whole building. The school aims 'to engage young people with exciting and enjoyable ways to learn; providing personalised programmes and support to achieve their highest potential in education and future success in training and work'.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

Although the regulations are likely to be met by the school's planning, implementation cannot be checked until the school opens. The evaluation of the school's planned curriculum confirms that it covers all required aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The behaviour policy suitably covers rewards and sanctions. The school has plans to use a 'triangulated approach' to manage the behaviour of its students which includes use of the Special Needs Assessment Profile Behaviour Data scheme. This involves students, parents and staff. The school's planning sets out to ensure that all students develop self-knowledge, self-confidence and the ability to accept responsibility for their own behaviour. The students will learn about the criminal and civil law through the planned curriculum in personal, social and health education.

The school has clear plans to provide its students with a broad knowledge of faiths and cultures other than their own, to develop an appreciation of the diverse nature of British society. It has identified local contacts to contribute to the studies. The school will enable its students to have contact with the local community and to contribute to it, for example working in a nursery and becoming involved with local

---

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

people visiting the school's hair and beauty salon. The students will also raise money for charities such as MacMillan. The curriculum planning indicates the school will present its students with balanced political views. There are opportunities for students to expand their knowledge of English public institutions and services, for example learning about the role of the police, health professionals and social workers.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations in respect of welfare, health and safety. Implementation could not be evaluated as the school is not yet operating. The school has devised an appropriate safeguarding policy and safe recruitment procedures. The school has already appointed all the staff. All members of staff have completed appropriate safeguarding training including the senior officer designated for child protection. There is a suitable behaviour policy and this is supported by an appropriate range of rewards and sanctions. The school's policy on anti-bullying is suitable. There is an appropriate policy on health and safety including risk assessments related to individuals, learning activities and trips. The school's first aid policy gives clear guidance on all required issues including how injuries and blood spillages are dealt with. There are sufficient numbers of staff trained for first aid. Attendance and admission registers meet the requirements. The school has demonstrated full compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, with all the necessary checks in place and a report from the fire authority is in place. The school meets the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 as it has a three-year plan to improve access.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. There is an appropriate single central register in place. All the required checks on the suitability of the staff have been completed along with checks on all the governors. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities if the need arises for supply staff to be employed at the school.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations for premises and accommodation. The school building has 11 classrooms in total, enough to cater for the needs of those it intends to admit. These include a hair and beauty salon with a therapy room, an information and communication technology room, art and ceramic room, food technology room, music room and workshop area. The school also has a nurture unit for primary-aged pupils. There are appropriate washroom facilities and a suitable place for students to play outside. There is a suitable provision for drinking water for students' use. The school has a room for those who are ill. The school intends to use the physical education and shower facilities at a nearby sports centre until the building is refurbished. The school building has appropriate security arrangements.

The school has plans to refurbish the present building and much of the work will be carried out during the summer period. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the refurbishment process on behalf of the trust. The school's refurbishment plan was scrutinised. An appropriate timescale has been agreed for completion of refurbishment works. On completion of these refurbishments, students will benefit from improved classroom sizes, a kitchen, a hall and construction area. There will also be changing and shower facilities for students including those with a disability. Initially, 40 students will be admitted in Year 11 by 9 September 2013 and more students will follow at other key stages by October 2013.

### **Provision of information**

The provision meets all regulations.

### **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The provision meets all regulations.

## **Recommendation to the Department for Education**

### **Registration**

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 90

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 8-16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: specific learning difficulties, moderate learning difficulties and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The school initially applied for 120 full-time students. The school building at present can only accommodate 90 students and the school agreed with this number.