

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

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School name	Trinity School
DfE registration number	886/4006
Unique reference number (URN)	139554
Inspection number	422393
Inspection dates	2 July 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.<sup>1</sup>

## **Context of the school**

Trinity School is a free school which will be initially located in a former office block. This is about to undergo refurbishment and is due to be completed in early August. The school is sponsored by the Sevenoaks Christian Education Trust and is due to open on 4 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 790 boys and girls from ages 11 to 19. It will admit students aged 11 to 12 in its first year. At present there are 100 students registered for enrolment, none of whom has a statement of special educational needs. From September 2015, it is intended that Trinity School will operate from a former secondary school, located nearby. Negotiations are currently underway to acquire the site. The school's mission, based on Christian values, is designed 'to work with families to enthuse and equip young people for life in all its fullness'.

## **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 vision is 'to create a Christian School' which is seen as a force for good in the local community and whose students are known for 'high educational attainment, strong moral values, readiness for work, self-discipline, willingness to serve and having the enthusiasm and skills for life-long learning'. In order to achieve these outcomes, the school has developed six keystones for its vision known as the 'six desired attributes' – 'Christian, high-achieving, local, disciplined, nurturing and serving', which will be at the heart of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The planned worship and assembly programme, across all faith and non-faith groups, is intended to provide all students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens by appreciating and respecting the diversity of various traditions and cultures globally and in the local community, and to develop an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England. The proposed development of the 'Trinity Way' – a programme which will promote the four key beliefs of excellence, leadership, service and transformation, will provide a constant reference point to enable staff, students and parents to contribute to activities in the local community. The staff handbook gives details to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

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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**

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. The school has prepared all the required policy documents, including those for safeguarding, child protection, welfare, safer recruitment, behaviour and relationships, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff and governors have been trained in safe recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. All staff appointed to date have been trained in child protection and safeguarding. For those staff still to be appointed, providers and dates have been identified for them to complete their safeguarding and child protection training before the school opens. Suitable policies have been prepared for health and safety, fire evacuation and planning for school journeys and educational visits. Risk assessments have been completed, including for fire safety, and a visit from the fire officer has been arranged. The behaviour and relationships policy aims to promote the 'very highest standards of behaviour' and expects students to adhere to these through the promotion of good relationships based on Christian principles and mutual respect. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year equality plan provides details to review and improve equality of access for disabled students and others.

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

All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are captured in a single central record. If the need arises, the school will employ supply staff and has appropriate procedures in place to conduct the checks on such staff.

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

A tour of the site and scrutiny of the architect's plans confirms that the refurbishment of the site is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Heating and lighting systems are likely to meet requirements. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide a rich learning environment designed to promote students' independent learning. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the school. All washrooms will be equipped for disabled users. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to students. The site has sufficient 'hard surface' outside areas for recreation but these are not suitable for physical education (PE). The school has secured the use of a local leisure centre, located nearby, where all students will receive their PE lessons. The leisure centre is suitably equipped with showers and changing facilities. The school has appropriate risk assessments in place to ensure students will be safely chaperoned when being transported by coach to and from the venue, and when using the venue.

The main medical room will be located on the first floor, with washrooms located nearby. An additional medical room has been identified, adjacent to the reception

area, on the ground floor. This is to facilitate the needs of disabled students, as there is no lift in the building.

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 790

Recommended age range: 11–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.