

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

School name	Rye Studio School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1471
Inspection number	422377
Inspection dates	11 June 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 2008.¹

Context of the school

Rye Studio School will be located on the site of Rye College, a mixed comprehensive school for 11 to 16 year olds. The school is sponsored by the Rye Academy Trust and is due to open on 9 September 2013. The studio has applied to be registered to admit 300 boys and girls from ages 14 to 19. It will admit students aged 14 to 18 in its first year. At present, there are 81 students registered for enrolment. Currently there are 19 students who have disabilities or have special educational needs, with none being in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. For September 2013, the studio will open in a new building located on the college campus. The studio aims to prepare young people for a career in the creative industries, 'combining the opportunity to achieve excellent academic and vocational qualifications alongside gaining valuable work placements and practitioner-led experiences'.

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 studio's intended ethos will welcome students of all abilities and backgrounds, and will set high 'work-place centred' expectations that will 'nurture ambition, a strong sense of purpose and commitment, a passion for the arts and a deep understanding of world cultures'. An expectation of professional standards of behaviour and respect, as in the world of work and business, is reflected in the planned personal, social, health and education programme. Each student will attend a two-week residential induction run by the National Citizen Service and sponsored by the Cabinet Office. Here students will experience a programme of team-building and outward bound activities designed to promote and develop their resilience, confidence and self-esteem. Social development will be further promoted with the support of 140 businesses from the local and wider community who will provide work placements and advice. The citizenship programme provides suitable opportunities for students to become involved in the local community. For example, the studio intends to run a 'silent movie' course, utilising the retro-style cinema in the town combined with tuition on the fine 1938 Wurlitzer organ located in the college hall. An extensive programme of trips and visits is planned to broaden cultural horizons so

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

that all students can develop an understanding of civil law, public institutions and services in England.

The planned programme of breakfast club activities, across all faith and non-faith groups, is intended to provide all students, whatever their faith background, with the opportunity to appreciate and respect the diversity of various traditions and cultures in the local community. Staff contracts give details designed to ensure that planned lessons will be free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view is always presented.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. The studio has in place suitable policies and procedures to assess and manage health and safety risks around the site, including fire safety risk assessments, and a report from the fire authority is firmly planned. There is a behaviour and anti-bullying policy for students in the studio, on work-placements and on visits, with an appropriate range of sanctions and rewards. The building is due to be completed by September and evacuation procedures, together with the necessary fire checks, are in place or planned. Appropriate electronic attendance and admission registers are ready for use. The studio has an appropriate three-year accessibility plan in place to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

The studio has policies in place for safeguarding, safer recruitment 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.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All appointed staff to date are suitably vetted and these checks are captured in a single central record which includes volunteers and members of the governing body. Should the need arise, the studio will employ supply staff, and appropriate protocols are in place to meet the regulations.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works confirms that the premises are likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. The installation of washrooms is satisfactory, including disabled toilets, with one being located on the ground floor. For lessons in physical education, the studio has appropriate provision for changing rooms and showers. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide a learning environment rich in technology resources to promote independent learning. The planned building will have full access for disabled students via a ramped entrance and a lift to both floors. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the

studio. A medical room is planned and will be centrally located with washrooms nearby, all suitably equipped. The studio has access to its own dedicated outside areas, including the college's extensive playing fields, swimming pool and multi-use games area.

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: 300

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.