

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

School name	Oasis Academy South Bank
DfE registration number	208/4000
Unique reference number (URN)	139659
Inspection number	422396
Inspection dates	21 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

Oasis Academy South Bank will be located on the site of Oasis Baptist Church and the head office of the Oasis Community Trust and Oasis Community Learning, in a five-storey office block adjacent to the church, which is about to undergo extensive refurbishment. The school will be sponsored by Oasis Community Learning and is due to open on 5 September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit 600 boys and girls from ages 11 to 16. It will admit students aged 11 to 12 in its first year. At present there are 120 students registered for enrolment. Currently the number of students who have special educational needs is unknown, but there are five students who will be in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. For September 2013, Phase 1 of the school will operate from the ground, second and third floors, with Phase 2, including the remaining floors, due to be completed by July 2014. The school's vision will be for every student to 'be successfully and happily employed in a career with prospects'.

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 intended Christian ethos, will be based on 'serving all regardless of their faith' and will focus on the six core values of social responsibility, resilience, inclusion, aspiration, transformation and scholarship, to enable students to, 'Climb the stairs to greatness'. The planned personal, social, health and education curriculum, together with the assembly programme of celebrations across faith groups, is carefully woven into the school calendar so that students are afforded the opportunity to appreciate and respect different traditions and cultures, and can develop an understanding of civil law and public institutions and services in England. Planned trips to the Young Vic, King's and Oxford Universities, together with a residential outward bounds visit to Ullswater, are designed to broaden cultural horizons, globally and within the local community. Students will be enabled to become good citizens by being involved 'in a sustained volunteering programme' designed to 'strengthen the sense of community for young people' in Waterloo. The school intends to ensure that 'manners, politeness, courtesy and communication will be explicitly taught, modelled and reinforced' throughout the curriculum.

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

The staff handbook provides information to ensure that lessons will be free from partisan political views and that, where any religious or 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 school has suitable policies in place for safeguarding, safer recruitment and first aid. All senior staff and academy councillors appointed to date have been trained in safer recruitment, safeguarding and child protection. For subsequent staff appointments, training has been booked with a national provider for them to complete their safeguarding and child protection training in August before the school opens. Training for sufficient first aiders has been arranged.

Appropriate policies for health and safety, evacuation of the building and applying for educational visits have been compiled. Risk assessments have been completed, including fire safety; a visit from the fire department has been arranged. The 'Culture, Inclusion and Behaviour' handbook sets high expectations of students' behaviour, and will focus on 'tough love' that is 'rooted in compassion and aspiration'. Electronic attendance and admission registers are ready for use. The school has in place a three-year accessibility plan to review and improve equality of access for disabled students.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the academy council are captured in a single central record. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but has appropriate protocols in place should the need arise.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

A tour of the site, scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works confirm that the Phase 1 refurbishment of the premises is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. Orders for furniture, fixtures and fittings have been placed (orders seen) to provide a learning environment rich in technology resources to promote resilience and independent learning. The access policy details arrangements for disabled students to be admitted to the school. The installation of the appropriate number of washrooms is being completed, including disabled toilets, and a lift to all floors. For lessons in physical education, the school has appropriate provision for changing facilities and showers. A medical room, adjacent to the reception area on the ground floor, with washrooms nearby, is planned. The school has limited outside area space, but plans are in place to provide an outside play area on the roof and in the courtyard. In addition, the school has secured permission to use a nearby community park and has appropriate risk assessments in place to ensure students are safely chaperoned to and from the venue.

Scrutiny of the architect's plans and schedule of works for the Phase 2 refurbishment of the existing building confirms that the extended premises are also likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in July 2014. There will be sufficient classrooms, washrooms, disabled toilets and showers for the planned number on roll.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:

Recommended number of day pupils: 600

Recommended age range: 11–16 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.