

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

School name	Stockport Technical School
DfE registration number	356/
Unique reference number (URN)	1435
Inspection number	422331
Inspection dates	3 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Sarah Drake

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 Stockport Technical School, to be known as SK1, is to be located temporarily in part of a building which also houses offices, close to Stockport town centre. It is part of the 'Stockport College family', with the main college building located immediately across the main road from the proposed temporary premises. During its first year, students will undertake physical education and some practical work in the college's purpose-built accommodation. As the school expands, it is intended that it will occupy a building on land owned by the college. Eighty three students aged between 14 and 19 years are registered for enrolment on 4 September 2013, the proposed school's first day. Maximum numbers for the current year are 85. By the end of four years the school plans to admit up to 320 girls and boys aged from 14 to 19 years. It intends to admit some pupils with a range of special educational needs as well as those who speak English as an additional language. SK1 intends to cater for those 'who have a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and an ambition to be successful in their future careers.' The school is sponsored by Stockport College and it is governed by representatives of a range of large businesses, and also the Principal of Stockport College. It is intended that the school will work in close partnership with many local businesses, including the local NHS trust, to enable students 'to achieve qualifications and develop employability skills, to enrich their lives beyond school and to make positive contributions to the local economy and society.'

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 as SK1 is yet to open. The planned programme for personal, social, health and citizenship education covers a wide variety of topics ranging from ethics and spirituality to careers and employability. It is intended that it will also deepen students' understanding of prejudice and discrimination, other cultures and, in an unbiased manner, of politics, voting and their role in society. There is no indication in planning of any political bias. The behaviour and respect charter establishes a clear structure of 'school community ground rules'. This, combined with the commendation system and carefully stepped behaviour contract system, places responsibility for self-discipline squarely on the shoulders of each individual. Together with the more formal taught curriculum, it is intended that this will develop students' understanding

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

of criminal and civil law as well as their self-esteem, confidence and valuing of their own unique talents. There are plans that the student president and vice president will meet fortnightly with key staff to represent the student voice, and will have regular access to the proposed school's governing body. The school plans to capitalise on its extensive links with local employers through providing students with access to a range of speakers, such as those working in planning or legal departments, designed to increase their knowledge and understanding of public institutions and services in England. It is proposed that, throughout their courses, students will be offered workplace opportunities to experience hands-on experience of employers' expectations and the importance of participation in and contribution to the community.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary and physical evidence indicate that the school is likely to meet all requirements but, because it is not yet operational, implementation could not be seen. Comprehensive arrangements are in place to ensure the safeguarding of students. Appropriate, rigorous steps are taken during the recruitment process to check staff's suitability to work with children. Staff and governors are trained in child protection to the required level for their role, with further 'top-up' training planned for the start of the new school year. The safeguarding policy clearly outlines roles, responsibilities, signs that might trigger concerns, and the correct actions to take. Similarly, the health and safety policy provides clear guidance on responsibilities and procedures. Supported by the local fire service and Stockport College, the school has conducted a full fire risk assessment and obtained a report from an appropriate authority. Suitable admission and attendance registers are in place. The school's office manager has recently undertaken a five day first aid training course. In its equality and diversity policy, the school outlines how it plans to improve access for disabled students, over three years, to the premises, curriculum and information. It is intended that all policies and procedures will be reviewed during the first few months after the school opens, to make any required adjustments in the light of experience and to ensure staff's understanding, leading to consistent application. In order to enhance their welfare, the school plans that each student should have a personal coach to provide pastoral support and an employer mentor to add further guidance.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the requirements necessary in order to ensure that all staff and proprietors are suitable to work with children. Information gained from the comprehensive checks made on staff and proprietors is maintained clearly on a readily accessible but confidentially stored single central record. Suitable further checks have been carried out in relation to those members of staff who have recently been working outside the United Kingdom. The school's leaders are aware of their responsibilities regarding the employment of supply staff and the need to inform the

Disclosure and Barring Service should they become aware that any person is deemed to be unsuitable to work with children.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet the majority of requirements related to the premises and accommodation but, because some work by contractors is not yet complete, it is not likely to meet all of them. The section of the former office building which the school intends to use is being suitably adapted to ensure that the numbers of students expected in September 2013 will have sufficient space for learning, relaxing and independent study. It is intended that practical activities such as engineering and car maintenance will take place in purpose-built accommodation within Stockport College. Arrangements are also in place for students to use the college facilities, which include appropriate changing areas, for indoor and outdoor physical education and for recreation. The school has consulted with parents about their preferences for their children's lunchtime arrangements and has appropriate plans to cater for both those students that will have permission to go off-site and those who prefer to stay within the school premises. At the time of the registration visit, the school did not have suitable accommodation identified to cater for the medical and therapy needs of students, nor did it have clearly marked drinking water facilities. When tested, the hot water posed a scalding risk to users. The school, therefore, does not fully comply with all requirements related to the premises and accommodation. School leaders are aware of the need to remedy these breaches before students are allowed on site and they intend to do so.

In order to meet the regulations related to the premises and accommodation of schools in full the school should ensure that:

- suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils which includes accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
- suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils which includes accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils, which includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility (paragraph 23B(1)(b))
- suitable drinking water facilities are provided and that these are readily accessible at all times when the premises are in use and are in a separate area from toilet facilities (paragraph 23F(a))
- cold water supplies that are suitable for drinking are clearly marked as such (paragraph 23F(c))
- the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users (paragraph 23F(d)).

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision meets all 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 matters.**

The school should ensure that:

- suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils which includes accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
- suitable accommodation is provided in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils which includes accommodation for the short-term care of sick and injured pupils, which includes a washing facility and is near to a toilet facility (paragraph 23B(1)(b))
- suitable drinking water facilities are provided and that these are readily accessible at all times when the premises are in use and are in a separate area from toilet facilities (paragraph 23F(a))
- cold water supplies that are suitable for drinking are clearly marked as such (paragraph 23F(c))
- the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users (paragraph 23F(d)).

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the building works have been completed. The school is to be housed in temporary accommodation which is of a suitable size to accommodate up to 85 students (the number currently applied for). The inspector informed the Principal that when the school wishes to move it will need to submit a request to the Department for Education for a material change.