

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

School name	Anand Primary School
DfE registration number	336/2007
Unique reference number (URN)	139274
Inspection number	422357
Inspection dates	10–11 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Susan Aldridge

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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

Anand Primary School is to be a free school. It is situated close to the city centre of Wolverhampton. The accommodation to be used is a Victorian primary school building, currently in use as a pupil referral unit for secondary pupils. There are plans to increase the accommodation in three phases, and for the school to grow into a two-form entry school for up to 420 boys and girls aged from 4 to 11 by September 2019. The first phase of re-building to extend the premises is scheduled for completion in April 2014. The school plans to open in September 2013, when pupils will be of Reception age only.

The school's mission is to be a safe, happy and eco-friendly school dedicated to giving children the very best start in life. It aims to enable all children to fulfil their academic, creative and sporting potential. Anand plans to admit pupils of any or no faith. Its information booklet stresses 'the Sikh ethos of Respect, Equality and Tolerance'. It is to admit pupils of all ethnic groups and will take pupils with special educational needs. The governors are working closely with the local authority in relation to admission procedures.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations, although implementation of plans and policies could not be seen at this visit. The unusually long school day, from 08.45 to 16.30, is planned so that all pupils will benefit from 'Be Time', during which they will have access to a range of sporting and cultural activities as well as opportunities to learn community languages. This aspect of pupils' development is underpinned by the school's ethos, aiming as it does to encourage pupils to take responsibility for themselves, care for others and reach for more. The school is to follow the locally agreed syllabus for religious education and it is intended that pupils will learn about all faiths and cultures, drawing on the diverse population and faith provision of the city.

The behaviour policy sets out a suitable range of strategies to encourage good behaviour, including rewards ranging from stickers to certificates and 'golden time'. There is to be a weekly theme for assemblies and one dedicated to the celebration of

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

achievement. Appropriate sanctions range from verbal reminders to detention and letters home to parents. Plans include 'chill out' zones in classes for pupils to reflect on their behaviour. Amongst other things, the school's house system is intended to create a sense of belonging, foster more caring interpersonal relationships, support teamwork and raise morale. It is intended that Year 6 pupils will become 'Anand Learning Leaders', mentoring younger pupils and helping them with reading and homework. The school plans inter-house competitions in the arts, curriculum and sports. The 'forest school' programme, possible because of an already developed woodland on the existing site, is intended to give pupils an appreciation of the wider environment in which they live.

The school plans to give pupils an understanding of people in society who help us, such as the school crossing wardens and the police, so that pupils appreciate why civil laws are necessary and should be obeyed. The school intends to draw heavily on local community resources, including businesses and volunteers, as well as encourage pupils to participate in community projects, including fund-raising. The school's plans indicate that it will discourage partisan political views and give pupils an unbiased view of political issues.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Most regulations are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. The school does not have a fire risk assessment for the existing building, but a visit from the fire service is booked for 17 June. Otherwise, its fire-safety policy shows suitable plans for the training of staff, checking of equipment and practice in evacuations.

Arrangements to safeguard pupils are outlined in a comprehensive policy. Evidence of checks carried out on staff, including of their previous employment history, character and professional references taken are to be found in files. All staff recruited so far have had training in child protection or have it firmly arranged for dates preceding the opening of the school. The Chair of the Governing Body has an enhanced criminal records check. The headteacher has up-to-date training as a designated person for child protection and the assistant head is to attend training as deputy designated person this summer. There is a wide-ranging induction programme for staff covering all aspects of fire safety, first aid and child protection. There are sufficient staff trained in paediatric first aid for the number of pupils anticipated in Reception. Between them, the school's policies cover the current welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The anti-bullying policy shows appropriate plans to discourage bullying. The behaviour policy includes detailed arrangements for the supervision of pupils. The school plans to use suitable attendance registers and record admissions as required on a software package designed for management information. No pupils have yet been admitted. There is a clear statement on disability equality and a plan showing how the school will develop access for those with disabilities over a three-year period.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- ensure compliance with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. For the trustees, governors and staff recruited so far, all the required checks have been carried out or are being processed. There is a single central register that contains all the information that it should and records checks on trustees, governors and staff. Although the school does not plan to use supply staff at first, the headteacher is well aware of procedures for ensuring that they are suitable to work with children and checking their identity when they arrive. Similarly, there are suitable plans for carrying out checks on volunteers, contractors and community visitors who will contribute to the 'Be Time' programme.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet most of the regulations. There are shortfalls in the provision of marked sources of drinking water, the water in washrooms is too hot for small hands, and the medical room is too far away from toilets.

The existing building is sufficient for the number, up to 60, that will be admitted in September 2013. Some of the existing classrooms are too small for 30 pupils and there is not sufficient space for the 420 planned places in the existing building. The hall is too small for a whole-school assembly for this number, for instance, and there are insufficient toilets. The plan is for two demountable buildings on the site to be demolished in preparation for a new building. Although there is a specification that takes account of the planned places and there are several designs for a new additional building, none has been finally decided upon. The projected date for completion of the first phase of the new building, April 2014, does not seem entirely realistic. There was no evidence that planning permission has been obtained.

There are plans to internally alter the existing building, to provide an open-plan area for children in Reception, suitable toilet facilities for them and create a safer entrance on a less busy road than that currently used, for instance. These particular improvements are firmly planned for completion by September, which is a reasonable timescale. Specialist rooms for science and food technology are to be retained but the work surfaces in these are too high for young children. There is a good-sized art and craft room, which is well provided with natural light. The large outdoor area lacks any play equipment for young children, but the securely fenced adjacent field is an asset, as is the woodland area. The site is completely fenced and has parking for staff. There is external lighting.

In order to meet the regulations in full, the school should:

- ensure that accommodation for the short term care of sick and injured pupils is near to a toilet facility (paragraph 23B(1)(b))
- ensure that 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(1)(a))
- ensure that cold water supplies that are suitable for drinking are clearly marked as such (paragraph 23F(1)(c))
- ensure that the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users (23F(1)(d)).

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet all the 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:**
- ensure compliance with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13)
- ensure that accommodation for the short term care of sick and injured pupils is near to a toilet facility (paragraph 23B(1)(b))
- ensure that 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(1)(a))
- ensure that cold water supplies are suitable for drinking are clearly marked as such (paragraph 23F(1)(c))
- ensure that the temperature of hot water at the point of use does not pose a scalding risk to users (23F(1)(d)).

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 210

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4-11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.

Currently, there is not enough space in the existing building for the number applied for. To add to this, there are no final plans for the new building so it is not possible to judge whether this will provide suitable accommodation for the full number applied for. The recommendation is that the school be allowed to open and should apply for a material change in numbers when it has its new building.