

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

School name	Pimlico Primary School
DfE registration number	999/1504
Unique reference number (URN)	1504
Inspection number	422419
Inspection dates	30 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Young

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
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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

The proposed Pimlico Primary School is to be housed in a new building nearing completion on the site of the Pimlico Academy in Westminster, London. It is sponsored by Future Academies and is due to open in September 2013. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 420 boys and girls in the age range four to 11 years. It will admit 30 pupils into the Reception class in its first year. The school is non-selective and will admit some pupils with statements of special educational needs. The school states that 'central to our ethos is giving children the building blocks – the 'core' knowledge – necessary to thrive at school and beyond. We have a commitment to high standards for all and will facilitate these with excellent teaching, resources and pastoral support'.

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 has a commitment to raising children's aspirations and encouraging a 'can-do' approach to learning. The school's programme for personal, social and emotional development is designed to support pupils in developing a positive sense of themselves, to develop positive relationships and respect for others. Pupils will be encouraged to talk about their behaviour and its consequences and to understand and follow the rules. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies provide a strong context through which to support these aims.

Pupils will have opportunities to take on age-appropriate responsibilities, such as being a line leader, a snack time helper or a member of the school council. The school has identified a number of additional responsibilities within the school and beyond which enable pupils to begin to engage with the local community. The programme for personal, social and health education includes themes related to democratic society, becoming active members of a community, and developing good relationships with other members of the community. It includes material which will make pupils aware of the workings of civil and criminal law and of public institutions. Each child will have a 'primary passport' to signpost important milestones such as taking part in fundraising, contributing to school life and activities after school.

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

Topical issues from the news will be discussed daily and visitors to the school will address spiritual, moral and cultural issues through school assemblies. Starting with the youngest children, the curriculum introduces themes about similarities and differences related to places, local and wider environments, and cultural and social issues. The school's religious education follows guidance from the local authority agreed syllabus. Leaders from different faith groups will be invited to contribute to school life to increase pupils' awareness and to develop respect for diversity. Throughout the school's documentation there is a commitment to balanced perspectives and the development of tolerance and respect. There is no indication of the promotion of any partisan political views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all but one of the regulations are likely to be met. The school has produced all the required policy documents, including those for encouraging good behaviour and the prevention of bullying, safety on educational visits and first aid, together with appropriate rewards and sanctions including suitable mechanisms for recording any serious incidents. A suitable number of staff has received appropriate training, at various levels, in first aid. The headteacher has attended safer recruitment training and produced a safe recruitment policy; appropriate procedures have been implemented in the appointment of staff to date.

The comprehensive child protection policy sets out clear procedures for managing any disclosure, for record keeping and for a suitable relationship with the local authority designated officer. Three members of staff, including the headteacher, have been booked onto training for the designated person for child protection, to take place before the school opens. Training in child protection for all staff has been planned into the staff induction programme before the school opens so that requirements are likely to be met.

The school has produced a health and safety policy, together with an appropriate premises risk assessment with suitable arrangements and timescale for regular review. A fire risk assessment has not yet been produced and a report from the fire authority has not yet been received. The school's electronic information management system includes suitable arrangements for the maintenance of the admission and attendance registers. A disability and accessibility policy has been produced, together with a three-year plan to increase accessibility.

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all the regulations are likely to be met. All the required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff

appointed to date. Details of checks on staff are being entered into a suitable single central register as they are received. The school will share personnel services with the academy where there is extensive experience of staff appointments, including the use of agency supply staff, should these be required in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in new premises which are nearing completion, on the site of the Pimlico Academy, Westminster. It was possible to visit the premises and confirm that the accommodation and outside space provided meet regulatory requirements. The timescale for completion is planned to ensure that the handover of the building takes place towards the end of August. The completed building will accommodate the 420 pupils for whom the school is to be registered. The Education Funding Agency is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the trust. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

There are sufficient teaching spaces for the planned number of pupils across the full age range to be admitted. New furniture, suitable for the numbers and age range of pupils to be admitted, is on order. There are sufficient separate washrooms for boys, girls and staff. Hot water and drinking water supplies meet requirements. A medical room with a toilet, shower and washbasin has been provided. There are appropriate facilities for the serving of food which will be prepared in the kitchens of the adjacent academy. There is suitable outside space for play and recreation and the premises are fully secure. There are joint management arrangements in place for the primary school and for the secondary academy which will ensure secure supervised access for primary-aged pupils to some of the specialist facilities of the academy.

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:**

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a satisfactory fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13).

Recommended number of day pupils: 420

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4 to 11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.

Note: The Department should obtain confirmation from the school before it opens that the building works have been completed.