

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

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School name	Boston Pioneers Free School Academy
DfE registration number	999/1447
Unique reference number (URN)	1447
Inspection number	422346
Inspection dates	18 June 2013
Reporting inspector	George Derby

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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.<sup>1</sup>

## Context of the school

This free school is part of the Phoenix Family of Schools Academy Trust, which is based in Boston, Lincolnshire. Although it will have a separate identity, it is planned that it will be supported by the other schools in the family (Park Academy, Fishtoft Academy and Gosberton Academy).

Boston Pioneers intends to provide primary education, from Reception to Year 6, for up to 420 boys and girls in a central Boston town location, initially in Tunnard Street. It has no religious affiliation, although it is leasing its temporary school site from a church body from June 2013. This is the former Conway School which closed three years ago (and during earlier times was the Middle Class Girls' School). It plans that by September 2014 it will have a permanent, newly built, school nearby in Fydell Crescent.

The school will open with 60 pupils of Reception age; 50 have already been registered for enrolment and there is a White British and East European heritage mix in equal proportions.

The school's motto is 'sic itur ad astra' ('thus you will go to the stars').

The school is not operating and implementation of its policies and procedures could not be seen.

## Compliance with the regulations

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

All regulations are likely to be met although implementation could not be seen. The school has a clear statement in its equality policy that no political partisan view will be promoted and that any balance will be ensured if political views are discussed. There will be a significant emphasis on personal development through the implementation of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Key qualities promoted through personal targets will be enquiry, adaptability, resilience, morality, communication, thoughtfulness, cooperation and respect. Aspects of the school's personal, social and health and citizenship programme will support social

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<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99)

relationships and 'money week' and other ongoing topics, part of IPC, will aid economic understanding. The school's Community Baccalaureate Programme will aid pupils' contribution to the local and wider community and pupils are to be encouraged to be active members of a democratic society. It will provide pupils with a good insight into the workings of civil law and into the role of public institutions in England. Pupils will to be encouraged to gain respect and develop tolerance for other cultures and religions through work in IPC and also through the school's comprehensive religious education programme.

## **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

The school is likely to comply with most of the independent school regulations, although one regulation is unlikely to be met. Implementation could not be seen.

Boston Pioneers has clear procedures and detailed policies for all areas of welfare, health and safety. For instance, safeguarding procedures are comprehensive with key designated staff already trained at the higher level and new staff to be trained at the basic level during induction in August 2013. Safe recruitment procedures are fully in place which was evident from the staff files examined and from discussions with staff. The school's behaviour policy encourages good behaviour and outlines appropriate sanctions if there is any misbehaviour. The elimination of any bullying will also be of high priority. The first aid policy has all the required information, including dealing with blood and bodily fluids and the accessibility plan appropriately covers increased access to the curriculum, information and premises. The school has a clear fire policy. However, it could not provide information about a fire risk assessment or a report from the fire authority, as the temporary school building is not in a completed state to be able to undertake this.

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

- undertake a fire risk assessment and arrange a report from the fire authority when the building renovations have been completed so as to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13).

## **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

The school is likely to meet all requirements. All the required checks are made on staff, directors and governors. The single central register goes well beyond that which is required and can be filtered from the whole Phoenix Academy's list and so is a discreet set of data for this school.

## **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

No regulations of this aspect are likely to be met at this stage because the accommodation is yet to be refurbished. The Victorian property requires considerable improvement, although this is programmed and clear, detailed plans are in place. It

has been empty for three years and, although sound structurally, there is much renovation to do.

The proprietors report that the funding agreement was signed last week and the Education Funding Authority confirms that the lease agreement will be signed imminently. The project management company (McAvoy Construction) have provided a clear schedule of works which corresponds with the modification and refurbishment of the building needed at Tunnard Street. If the plans are followed, then all regulations will be met. However, at this stage, there are no completed premises to evaluate. Handover of the finished accommodation will be undertaken on 12 August 2013.

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

- ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for the sole use of pupils (paragraph 23A(1)(a))
- ensure that separate toilet facilities for boys and girls aged 8 years or over are provided except where the toilet facility is provided in a room that can be secured from the inside and that is intended for the use of one pupil at a time (paragraph 23A(1)(b))
- provide suitable accommodation in order to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils which includes (paragraph 23B(1)):
  - accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
  - 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))
- ensure that the acoustic conditions and sound insulation of each room or other space are suitable, having regard to the nature of the activities which normally take place in them (paragraph 23D)
- ensure that the lighting in each room or other internal space is suitable, having regard to the nature of the activities which normally take place in them (paragraph 23E(a))
- provide external lighting in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the school premises (paragraph 23E(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 toilets and urinals have an adequate supply of cold water and washing facilities have an adequate supply of hot and cold water (paragraph 23F(1)(b))
- 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 (paragraph 23F(1)(d))
- provide suitable outdoor space to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum (paragraph 23G(1)(a))
- provide suitable outdoor space to enable pupils to play outside (paragraph 23G(1)(b)).

## **Provision of information**

The provision meets all 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:**

- undertake a fire risk assessment and arrange a report from the fire authority when the building renovations have been completed so as to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (paragraph 13)
- ensure that suitable toilet and washing facilities are provided for the sole use of pupils (paragraph 23A(1)(a))
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  - accommodation for the medical examination and treatment of pupils (paragraph 23B(1)(a))
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- 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 (paragraph 23F(1)(d))
- provide suitable outdoor space to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum (paragraph 23G(1)(a))
- provide suitable outdoor space to enable pupils to play outside (paragraph 23G(1)(b)).

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 420 (60 initially)

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 4 to 11 years (4 years initially)

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.