

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

School name	Stoke Studio College
DfE registration number	861/
Unique reference number (URN)	1436
Inspection number	422332
Inspection dates	25 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Sheila Boyle

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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

Stoke Studio College plans to operate from two top-floor blocks within Stoke-on-Trent college at its Burslem campus. The studio college is part of the multi-academy trust sponsored by Stoke-on-Trent College which includes Discovery Academy (secondary provision) and a primary academy within the city. The college intends to offer specialist courses in manufacturing and design engineering. It has applied to be registered to admit, in its first year, 80 boys and girls in the age range 13 to 19 rising to a maximum of 300 over a three-year period. Students from Years 9 to 11 will attend Discovery Academy to pursue GCSE courses for up to four days a week reducing to two days in Year 11. The post-16 students will have the opportunity to study a range of accredited specialist courses in manufacturing and design engineering as well as courses in English and mathematics. The college will be non-selective and it intends to admit some students with special educational needs. The college aims to give students academic knowledge and world-class experiences in engineering, manufacturing and business enterprise and equip them with the skills they will need to flourish in life and in work.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The regulations are likely to be met by the planning, although implementation cannot be checked until the college opens. The planning shows how the college intends to offer its students a personal, social and health education programme, which covers issues such as personal safety, drugs awareness, law and order, and local and global citizenship. Students will be expected to take responsibility for their own behaviour and engage in activities aimed at gaining an understanding of how to make a contribution to the college as a whole and to the local and wider communities. Social development will be promoted through group activities in college, work experience, visitors and visits off the site. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies aim to promote good relationships that allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way. Policies relating to equality of opportunity and citizenship confirm the college's intention to help its students to develop an understanding of public institutions and services in England, and to have an insight into different religions and cultures as well as democracy and the rule of civil law. There is no evidence that political views will be presented in anything other than a balanced way. The trust's

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

strong links with local businesses and higher education establishments, including local and national universities, will be used to encourage and assist students to pursue academic and vocational courses.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence and discussion with the headteacher indicates that all the regulations are likely to be met although implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. Staff appointed have had relevant training in child protection and the designated child protection officer has the required training. A first aid policy is in place and several members of staff have completed first aid training. An appropriate educational visits policy includes requirements for risk assessments to be completed. Suitable policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and for fire safety but premises and fire safety risk assessments are firmly planned, but have not yet been completed due to the fact that the refurbishment of the planned accommodation is not completed. A fire safety report from the fire authority is not available but a visit is planned before the school opens. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. Stoke-on-Trent College has planned well for improving accessibility so that the college meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The college's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date. Evidence that all the required checks have taken place is maintained on a single central register. Checks are completed and entries on the register updated as new staff are appointed. The college intends to use supply staff and has systems in place to check such staff. It is aware of its duty to refer any person who is deemed unsuitable for working with children to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Premises and accommodation at the school

The evidence from plans and from discussion with the Principal indicate that all requirements will be met. Plans show that the accommodation set aside for the studio college to use is located across the second and third floors of a former educational block at Stoke-on-Trent College. The accommodation is currently being refurbished. Plans indicate that there will be sufficient classrooms and washrooms for the maximum number of students aged 13-19 years who are expected to attend at any given period. The plans also show provision for separate washrooms for staff and an administration block. Washrooms will have a regulated supply of hot water. The evidence from the plans indicates that acoustic conditions and internal lighting

will be effective. There is provision for students to have access to drinking water, suitably signed. The studio college plans to use the main college's medical room for the medical examination and short-term care of sick students and its outdoor facilities for recreation and play. These facilities are likely to meet requirements. Students of school age will have physical education lessons with appropriate facilities when they attend the Discovery Academy provision. The students will have timetabled access to the main college's engineering workshops. The college has planned to install suitable external lighting in order to ensure that people can safely enter and leave the premises.

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. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**