

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a new university technical college (UTC)

School name	Daventry UTC
DfE registration number	999/1453
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Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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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 proprietor, the Daventry University Technical College Trust, seeks to establish a university technical college (UTC) for up to 600 male and female students aged 14 to 19 years in purpose-built premises in Daventry, Northamptonshire. The school will specialise in new technologies, focusing on sustainable and related technologies in engineering, sustainable construction and engineering sustainability. It is sponsored by the University of Northampton and Moulton College.

The school intends to open on 16 September 2013 with 110 students in Year 10. Initially, there will be three male students for every female student but the school expects this proportion to reduce to three to two over time. All the teaching staff required for the school to open have been appointed and they will undertake an induction programme during the first two weeks of September 2013. The purpose-built premises are under construction but will not be ready for when the school opens. Initially, students will be taught at the University of Northampton's Sunley Management Centre where the school will have exclusive use of part the accommodation until its own premises are ready for occupation.

The school aims to 'foster a learning ethos which promotes a spirit of enquiry, delivering young people that are skilled, professional and enterprising by equipping them to share in a journey of technological, professional and personal development'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The proposed provision for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is appropriate for the age of the school's students. The school's values of respect for others and tolerance; honesty and integrity; determination and professionalism; and politeness, courtesy and punctuality form a foundation for its work and are comprehensively reflected in the school's policies and procedures. The school has developed a detailed programme of personal, social and health education and citizenship that will be delivered thematically as an integral part of the curriculum. Students will have access to a wide range of social and cultural enrichment activities, including residential visits, to support their personal development and their understanding of the arts,

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

technology, and public services and institutions in England. A focus of the school's provision will be raising student's awareness of the potential that they can individually and collectively make a real difference to communities through the application of new and sustainable technologies. The school's policies and procedures are planned to promote high expectations of students' behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and respect for others. Students will have many opportunities to develop their confidence and self-esteem through academic, vocational and enrichment activities, and through regular consultation with senior leaders through the school council. This process has already begun during a recent induction day when students determined the school dress code. Developing respect for civil law and for the differing views and opinions of others, including those of different faiths and cultures, is integral to the school's curricular programme. The school has taken suitable steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject and, where political issues are brought to the attention of the students, that reasonable steps will be taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. Implementation could not be seen as the school is not yet operating. The school's safeguarding policy reflects the guidance provided by the Secretary of State and includes details of the role of the local safeguarding board. The designated person for child protection has completed training at the required higher level and the entire staff team will undergo safeguarding training as part of their induction programme at the start of September 2013 so that requirements will be met. A dedicated induction training timetable seen on this inspection visit indicates that all the required training for staff will take place before the school admits its first students on 16 September 2013. A member of the senior leadership team involved in appointing staff has completed recognised training in safe recruitment procedures and others are due to complete similar training once they take up their appointments. The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff. All the required checks are being made and recorded on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in the school and when on visits, meet requirements. An appropriate record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour. The new premises have been planned to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The temporary accommodation has been subject to a general risk assessment and a fire risk assessment and the local fire officer has highlighted works that are to be completed to the fire authority's satisfaction before the school admits its first students. The school has due regard to the Equality Act 2010, ensuring full access to the premises, the curriculum and to information, and preparing an access improvement plan. The first aid policy meets requirements and staff will be trained in first aid procedures during their induction before the school admits its first students. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance registers that reflect requirements.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. All the required checks are made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including criminal records checks, as they are appointed. These are systematically recorded on the school's single central register. The school's records of the checks made on the identity and qualifications (where required) of staff, together with their medical fitness and any other checks, are complete for those already in post and are in the process of being completed for others as they are appointed. The school obtains and checks written references on all applicants in line with safe recruitment guidelines.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. The construction of the school's permanent accommodation is on track but will not be completed until part-way through the first academic year. As a temporary measure, the school will occupy part of the University of Northampton's Sunley Management Centre. It was not possible to view this accommodation on this inspection visit as the premises were not available to the school at the time. Plans seen indicate that these temporary premises will be fit for purpose following some minor works to provide the school with exclusive and secure use of a wing of the Centre, including sufficient space for students' outdoor recreation. The fire risk assessment, undertaken by the University of Northampton in liaison with the local brigade fire officer, has identified conditions that have to be satisfied by these works prior to the first students being admitted. Work to meet these requirements is on track for completion. The timetable for the delivery and installation of furnishings and equipment has been agreed with suppliers and contractors ready for when the school opens. Arrangements have been made with the landlord for the maintenance of the temporary accommodation and to ensure that they are kept clean and tidy. The standards of decoration, inside and outside lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring specified are likely to meet requirements. There is suitable access for people with physical disabilities. Designated emergency exit routes provide free passage to safety.

The specification for the temporary accommodation indicates that the provision of teaching and study areas, furnishings and fittings is likely to meet requirements. Safe access will be provided to a science laboratory, computer suite and specialist engineering facilities on the campus. Provision for physical education and games on the site includes changing facilities and showers. All the requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies, including drinking water, are likely to be met. The plans include sufficient washroom facilities for the number of students, staff and visitors, including those for disabled people. The school's proposed medical room for students is likely to meet requirements. A suitable fenced-off area of hard standing and grass will be available for students' daily recreation.

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.**

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

Recommended number of day pupils: 600

Recommended number of boarders: N/a

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/a.