

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

School name	The Olive Tree Primary School
DfE registration number	350/
Unique reference number (URN)	1416
Inspection number	422307
Inspection dates	8 July 2013
Reporting inspector	Lubna Aziz

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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 Olive Tree Primary School is a Muslim free school. It is located in the Daubhill area of Bolton. The school building was previously used as an industrial unit. The school is part of The Olive Tree Primary School, Bolton, Limited. The school is due to be opened on 12 September 2013 and has applied to register 420 boys and girls in the age range four to 11 years (adjusted to 90 pupils for the current building until the new building is ready for September 2014). The school will accept 60 pupils in two Reception classes and 30 in one class in Year 1. Currently, 90 pupils have been registered for enrolment. The school will accept pupils from various communities and faiths, including those with a statement of special educational needs. The school has plans to refurbish the current site to cater for the needs of the pupils it intends to accept from September 2013. The school aims to 'develop the core universal principles of equality, fairness, peace, compassion, tolerance and respect for all people through Islamic ethos'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulatory requirements. As the school is not operating yet, implementation cannot be seen. The evaluation of the personal, social and health education scheme of work indicates that the school has appropriately planned all aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to nurture the minds of its pupils. The school plans to raise its pupils' self-confidence and self-esteem through challenging activities in classroom situations such as teamwork and to be 'part of one of the houses of peace, trust, respect, equality, compassion and fairness'. Pupils will be taught about the universal values related to the Islamic principles. The effective use of circle time and reflection opportunities will ensure pupils know the difference between right and wrong. There is an appropriate behaviour policy in place with clear rewards and sanctions. An appropriate system of 'traffic lights' will be applied to encourage a high level of positive behaviour. The pupils will be given responsibilities within classrooms as class monitors and at school level they will have an opportunity to be chosen democratically as 'mini-ministers' for the school council. Through the school's planned curriculum, pupils will learn about 'People Who Help Us' and visitors such as fire officer, police officer and a dentist will be invited to talk about their profession. These and related activities will give pupils

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

an insight into the functions of a good range of public institutions and the workings of the civil and criminal law. Pupils will engage in charity work on local, national and international levels as part of their engagement in making a contribution to the community. Every Friday, each pupil will donate a penny to help towards a local cause. Pupils will raise money for charities such as 'Red Nose Day' and Children in Need. The school will equip its pupils with knowledge about other cultures through the study of different countries and their cultures by introducing cultural weeks in its planned curriculum. The religious studies curriculum covers two other religions other than Islam on a yearly basis. The school has plans to arrange visits to other places of worship such as a Hindu temple, gurdwara and a church to promote racial harmony between different faiths and cultures. There is no indication that the school will promote any particular political view or bias in its teaching, its contacts with outside contributors or other activities.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet almost all the requirements for welfare, health and safety. The documentary evidence indicates that all the required policies are in place. This includes appropriate policies for safeguarding, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. The headteacher has been trained in safe recruitment and all the principles of safe recruitment have been applied to the recruitment of staff. All staff, including the designated person, have an appropriate level of safeguarding training for child protection. The school has also trained a sufficient number of staff for first aid, including paediatric first aid. It has prepared suitable policies for health and safety and fire safety. Premises and fire safety risk assessments have not been carried out for the renovations, but the school has firm plans in place for these to be completed before it opens. A fire safety report from the fire authority is planned before the school opens in order to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The school meets the requirement for admission and attendance registers. The school has yet to devise a three-year accessibility improvement plan in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

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

- develop a three-year accessibility improvement plan as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

All regulations are likely to be met in this standard as evident from the school's record of safer recruitment and its implementation. The school has ensured all required checks have been completed for staff and governors. It has also compiled an appropriate single central register of the checks on the suitability of staff and governors. All the required checks have been suitably recorded in the single central register. At present, the school has no plans to use supply staff but is aware of its responsibility if the need arises. The school is also aware of its duty to inform the

Independent Safeguarding Authority in regards to a person who is not suitable to work with children.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The premises are likely to meet all requirements. Due to the renovation work only being planned to start within the week of this visit, evidence for this section was obtained largely from the school's plans and from discussion with the proprietor. The current school building occupies an industrial unit, consisting of two offices, a reception area, one suitable classroom, kitchen, a suitable medical room and two disabled toilets. There are appropriate plans to convert the building's large hall into two suitable-sized classrooms and provide sufficient toilets and washing facilities. The plans indicate that acoustic conditions and internal lighting will be adequate. Drinking water is to be provided and clearly labelled. The existing hot water supply is at a suitable temperature, and the cold supply to toilets and urinals is adequate.

The building work is managed by the Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent on behalf of the school trust. The construction work is due to start on 10 July 2013 and completion date is set for the end of August. There is an appropriate outside space for play and recreation. The external lighting is suitable and the premises are safe and secure.

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:

- develop a three-year accessibility improvement plan as required by the Equality Act 2010
- confirmation that a fire safety report approves use of the converted building.

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