

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

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School name	Cambourne Village College
DfE registration number	873/4006
Unique reference number (URN)	139408
Inspection number	422338
Inspection dates	21 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Declan McCarthy

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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

Cambourne Village College is located in the new village of Cambourne, west of Cambridge, with good access to local amenities and public transport. As a new academy it wishes to provide full-time education for up to 750 students aged 11 to 16, together with learning and leisure opportunities for people in the local community. The academy is directly funded by the Department for Education and the proprietorial body is the Comberton Academy Trust which is a registered charity. It will open in September 2013 with its first intake of up to 150 Year 7 students. At present, 135 students are registered for enrolment when the academy opens. It is to be accommodated in a new large two-storey purpose-built building on open fields on the edge of Cambourne which is almost complete. The keys are due to be handed over to the Trustees on 22 July 2013. The Academy has an outlook and ethos in line with the tradition of the existing Cambridgeshire village colleges, which is 'to be at the heart of the community and to serve the needs of the whole community by ensuring the key principles of the Comberton Academy Trust: education of the highest standard, for students of all types and abilities'. The college will provide education with an international outlook and seek to work in partnership with others.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

The academy is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation could not be seen. The academy has a strong emphasis on promoting students' personal development through a range of well-written policies which promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. There are clear reward systems to build students' confidence and self-esteem. Students will be encouraged to distinguish between right and wrong through the personal, social, health and education programme, a clear code of conduct and discipline policy, clear classroom rules and an appropriate system of sanctions. They will be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour, show initiative and make a contribution to the local community through, for example, acting as student leaders for subjects such as dance, physical education and modern foreign languages and taking responsibility for the library. They will make a contribution to the wider community as a good neighbour through the community element of the Duke of Edinburgh award. The academy places significant emphasis on promoting equality and diversity through, for example, its international dimension where students will sponsor a school in Kenya

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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)

and through the religion, philosophy and ethics programme. Students will be encouraged to respect British values of democracy and the rule of civil law. The academy provides clear guidance to staff in its staff handbook that partisan political views will not be promoted in the teaching of any subject.

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

The academy is likely to meet all regulations, although implementation was not seen. Robust policies and procedures to promote the safety and well-being of students are in place. All staff have been suitably vetted and trained in safeguarding according to the academy's policy and a clear induction programme is in place to familiarise new staff with the academy's safeguarding policies. There are firm links with the local safeguarding authority through the designated persons for children protection and three deputy designated persons, all of whom have been trained at the appropriate level in safer recruitment. Clear policies are in place to manage students' behaviour which are supported by a well-conceived system of rewards and sanctions. The anti-bullying policy provides good guidance for staff on dealing with potential bullying and there are clear procedures for ensuring students' safety on educational trips and visits. There are clear policies on first aid and health and safety. A fire risk assessment and a report from the fire authority have been planned. Protocols for the regular checking of fire and electrical appliances are in place. The academy's disability and equality scheme provides detailed information and guidelines on promoting and improving access and includes provision for low-level cookers in technology rooms, low-level work benches in science, lifts and full wheelchair access for wheelchair users. Specific areas of the accommodation are coloured coded to help pupils find their way.

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

All regulations are likely to be met. All staff, governors and proprietors have been thoroughly vetted and the recommended checks of identity, qualifications right to work in the United Kingdom and medical fitness have been carried out. The single central record provides the essential details of all appropriate checks made for staff, governors, proprietors and visitors. These are duly signed and dated. The academy does not intend to use supply staff from an employment business but intends to use a team of in-house cover supervisors employed by the academy.

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

All regulations are likely to be met. The new building is spacious, well-lit and ventilated and decorated to a very high standard. The new building has incorporated the latest technology for heating and ventilation using an air-source heat pump and hot and cold air recycling systems. Drinking water is clearly labelled and available at key points throughout the building. Classroom accommodation, including practical areas, is well designed and resourced with interactive white boards and low-level work surfaces for wheelchair users. There are sufficient separate washrooms for students, visitors and staff and a suitable designated medical room for students who may be ill. The outdoor recreational areas are spacious and well designed with tennis

courts, football and rugby pitches, and covered areas for students to use during inclement weather. There are suitable changing and shower facilities within 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. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 750

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-16

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.