

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a studio school

School name	New Campus Basildon Studio School
DfE registration number	999/1443
Unique reference number (URN)	1443
Inspection number	422341
Inspection dates	29 July 2013
Reporting inspector	David Young

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at www.ofsted.gov.uk/user.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 090080

© Crown copyright 2013



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 New Campus Basildon Studio School is to be located in the premises of previous further education facilities in the centre of Basildon. The school is sponsored by the New Campus Basildon Academy Trust and is due to open in September 2013. The school has applied to be registered for up to 324 students in the age range 14 to 19 years. It is proposed to admit up to 120 students in total into Years 10 and 12 in September 2013. The school will be non-selective and will cater for students of all abilities, including some with statements of special educational needs. The school aims 'to achieve academic excellence ... to develop high levels of occupational competence in the health and sports industries ... and to provide a personalised learning programme with regard to students' ability and interests'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations but implementation could not be seen. The school states that the well-being and safeguarding of learners is central to the school's ethos. All learners will receive weekly one-to-one academic mentoring and personal coaching. The intention is to ensure that students develop self-esteem and confidence and the resilience to succeed.

All students will take part in 20 days each year of enrichment activities which provide a range of experiences to encourage students to show initiative and how they can contribute positively to the local and wider communities. Planned activities include leadership programmes; Duke of Edinburgh awards; 'Working in the City' programme; enterprise events and competitions; weekly work experience and volunteering. The school's planned programmes for citizenship and personal, social and health education include a range of themes to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. These include opportunities to develop an understanding of right and wrong and the workings of civil and criminal law, through study of crime and punishment and the law of the land. Students will be introduced to public institutions and democratic processes at a national and local level, together with an understanding of their personal rights and responsibilities. Additional planned themes are designed to develop emotional well-being, relationships and reflection on how their actions impact on others.

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

An understanding of diversity in society includes, for example, a study of 'the international day for tolerance' and the 'international day for the eradication of poverty'. Planning includes a significant emphasis on human rights, empathy with varied cultural and belief systems, and international disparities. The school's learner involvement statement makes a clear commitment to taking an impartial, non-partisan approach to the consideration of any political views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. The school has produced all the required policies, including comprehensive policies and procedures for safeguarding and safer recruitment; behaviour for learning; offsite visits and anti-bullying. Senior staff have been trained in safer recruitment and appropriate procedures which meet all regulatory requirements have been operated in the appointment of staff. A senior member of staff has been trained as designated person for child protection. Training in child protection for all staff is included in the planned induction programme to be completed before the school opens so that requirements are likely to be met. The health and safety policy defines staff responsibilities and covers all required aspects of premises and fire safety, including arrangements for the periodic checking of all fire safety equipment and PAT testing for electrical equipment. First aid procedures are included in the health and safety policy and sufficient members of staff, including caretaking staff, have been trained to the required level in first aid. A fire risk assessment has been completed and is recorded together with arrangements for emergency evacuations. Arrangements are in hand to attend to the recommendations arising from this risk assessment. A fire safety report has not yet been obtained from the fire authority. A premises health and safety risk assessment is due to be completed once the premises refurbishment is completed. Admissions and attendance registers are to be completed electronically, together with records of any sanctions for serious misbehaviour. Templates for these are included on the school's commercially produced management information system. The required three-year plan to increase accessibility has not yet been completed.

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

- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13)
- produce a three-year plan to increase accessibility as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All

the required checks have been completed for proprietors and for staff appointed to date. Details of checks are being entered on to a suitable single central register as information is received. The school's human resources team have good experience of the required procedures for the appointment and checking of supply staff should the school choose to employ such staff in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be located in refurbished premises previously used as further education premises in the centre of Basildon. The premises are currently undergoing some refurbishment. Detailed plans and timescales for the refurbishment were scrutinised and discussed with the principal, and the premises were visited. The Education Funding Agency is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the trustees. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

Initially students will be admitted into Year 10 and Year 12. The initial intake in September 2013 will be a maximum of 120 students. There are sufficient teaching spaces of various suitable sizes, including specialist facilities for science and information and communication technology, to provide a full curriculum for these students. Additional science laboratories are planned for completion for September 2014. The current refurbishment work includes the fitting out of kitchens and a dining room for the preparation and serving of food. New furniture to equip the premises is on order and is being delivered at present. There are sufficient separate washrooms for male and female students and for staff, including disabled facilities on each floor of the premises. A medical room with a washbasin, close to toilets, is included in the plans for the accommodation. The school has easy access to the nearby sports facilities of the Basildon Sports Village which provides suitable indoor and outdoor facilities for physical education and for recreation, together with changing rooms and showers.

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**

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

- comply with health and safety law by producing a risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a report from the fire authority (paragraph 13)
- produce a three-year plan to increase accessibility as required by the Equality Act 2010.

Recommended number of day pupils: 324

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 14–19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.