

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

School name	Eden Girls' School, Coventry
DfE registration number	999/1646
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Inspection number	446863
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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 Tauheedul Education Trust, seeks to establish a free school for up to 700 female students aged 11 to 18 years in Coventry. The school will occupy purpose-built premises near the city centre on the site of a former ambulance station. Construction of the permanent buildings has yet to start and is likely to be completed in 2015. The school plans to open on 1 September 2014 with 100 students in Year 7 and 50 students in Year 8. The sixth form will open in September 2018. While the new school is being built, students will be accommodated in temporary modular buildings on part of the new school site.

The school plans to admit equal numbers of Muslim students and those from other or no faiths. The school will specialise in leadership, with students gaining externally moderated qualifications from the Chartered Management Institute at Key Stage 3 and the Institute of Leadership and Management at Key Stage 4.

The school aims to 'promote a culture of educational excellence, from within a caring and secure Islamic environment, enriched with the values of discipline, mutual care and respect which extend beyond the school into the wider community'.

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 range of the students and accords with the school's aims. The school has devised a comprehensive programme of enrichment that provides for students' personal, social and health education through the taught curriculum, extra-curricular activities and individual support. Each Friday afternoon, students will be engaged in organised activities within the local community.

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

The school's proposed programme focuses on preparing students for their future lives in society and in the workplace. At the heart of this lies the ethos of promoting students' self-respect, an understanding and tolerance of others and their differences, and building healthy relationships. Students will be supported in valuing themselves as individuals and in developing their talents to the full, while at the same time learning to manage success and failure as part of this process. Students' cultural development will be promoted through annual arts days, visits to museums and galleries, and an 'Eden's Got Talent' day where learners will rehearse and exhibit artistic performance on a chosen theme. The provision includes helping students to understand their rights and responsibilities within a democratic society, leading healthy and safe lives, and developing a healthy set of values and attitudes within a robust moral code. Students will develop a broad knowledge of the civil law and public institutions and services in England through the life skills and citizenship curriculum. The school's policies and procedures promote high expectations of students' behaviour, together with a strong sense of motivation and sense of purpose.

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 latest guidance provided by the Secretary of State and includes specific references to the local safeguarding board. The policy provides clear and unequivocal guidance to staff and governors about recognising and reporting abuse, together with practical advice about preventing incidents from arising and raising awareness among students. The Principal and Vice Principal designate have already undertaken higher level children protection training with another local authority and are due to attend update training with the Coventry child protection team on 19 June 2014 (confirmation seen). All staff will be provided with appropriate training in safeguarding matters as part of their induction programme prior to the school opening. The Chair of the Governing Body, governing body lead for child protection and the Principal designate have all completed recognised training courses in safe recruitment procedures (certificates seen). The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed. Scrutiny of plans and documentation shows that the proprietor has made suitable arrangements at the temporary site to ensure that the welfare, health and safety of students and staff are not compromised.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour, preventing bullying and ensuring their health and safety, both in school and when on visits, meet

requirements. A suitable computer-based record will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour.

Work on the former ambulance station site, including the erection of temporary modular buildings, is scheduled to be completed in August 2014. The proprietor has arranged for a fire risk assessment to be made as soon as the accommodation is handed over by the contractors. The proprietor has made contingency plans to address any resulting actions or recommendations before the school opens. The proprietor has also made arrangements to provide the Department for Education with copies of the handover certificate, building regulations certificate and fire risk assessment. These actions are likely to meet requirements.

The school has due regard to the Equality Act 2010, with an action plan drawn up to ensure access to the premises, the curriculum and to information. The first aid policy provides suitable guidance, and it is planned to train named staff in first aid procedures on 18 June and 2 July 2014 (confirmation of booking seen). 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 being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body, including criminal records checks, as they are appointed. These are suitably 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. The school does not intend to employ staff through an agency but is aware of the procedures to be followed should this be necessary.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. It was not possible to see the temporary premises as they are not yet available and construction has not started on the permanent accommodation. The plans for the permanent school provide a mix of teaching rooms, suited to small groups and individuals. There will be specialist facilities to support the curriculum throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. All teaching rooms will have multi-media facilities. The school has ordered furnishings and equipment and these are awaiting delivery for when the first students arrive in September. Mains services will be available at the temporary premises. The maintenance of the premises, and the arrangements for keeping them clean and tidy, have been arranged and appropriate standards of decoration, internal and external lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring have been specified. The local

fire officer has been consulted over the school's plans and is due to visit when the temporary accommodation becomes available and before the first students arrive.

Until the permanent accommodation is ready, the school will be housed in bespoke temporary classrooms. Students are to have suitable outdoor facilities for recreation and play during the time the school is in temporary buildings and then within the new accommodation.

The school's plans indicate that all the requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies are likely to be met in both sets of premises. The washroom facilities available for students and staff are sufficient. There will be suitable washroom facilities for disabled people and appropriately equipped medical facilities for students at both sites. The facilities for physical education and games include separate changing room facilities and showers. The security of the buildings and grounds is likely to meet requirements. The temporary accommodation will be fully fenced off during construction. Arrangements have been made for visitors and deliveries to be properly checked and supervised.

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.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 700

Recommended number of boarders: N/a

Recommended age range: 11–18 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Girls

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.