

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

School name	North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College
DfE registration number	999/1738
Unique reference number (URN)	1738
Inspection number	447003
Inspection dates	7 July 2014
Reporting inspector	Michael Best

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 2014



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, Weston Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Learning, seeks to establish a free school for up to 700 male and female students aged 14 to 19 years in Weston-super-Mare. The school will focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects delivered in partnership with business and universities.

When it opens on 1 September 2014, the school will be temporarily based in a wing of Weston College's South West Skills Centre. While teaching rooms, offices and washrooms at these premises are complete, the construction and fitting-out of the laboratories is still in the hands of contractors.

The first intake of students will comprise up to 200 Year 12 students. When the school moves to its purpose-built premises in September 2015, the school will admit students to Year 10 and Year 12, and be fully operational from September 2016. Students are being drawn from the Weston-super-Mare area and Bristol. The new build, which is due to commence in September, will be in the heart of the area's enterprise zone.

As well as providing temporary accommodation, Weston College of Further Education will provide the school with administrative and support services. During the first year of the school's operation, there will be some sharing of specialist staff and facilities, and use of common systems such as those for information and communication technology.

Typically, students in Years 12 and above will spend the equivalent of one day a week on placement in business and industry settings. Some of these placements may be blocked and undertaken in Munich, Germany. Students in Years 10 and 11 will also undertake shorter placements as part of their courses.

The school aims to 'be an inclusive centre of excellence' and 'combine the highest academic standards and levels of expertise and entrepreneurship and enterprise'.

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

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 closely reflects the school's aims. Enrichment to promote their personal, social and health education is planned through curriculum subjects, placements in business and industry settings, extra-curricular activities, visiting speakers and through visits both within the local and wider communities and abroad.

The school's proposed programme focuses on raising students' confidence and self-esteem to promote their engagement in learning and prepare them for their future lives in society and in the workplace. The school aims to develop students' self-respect, understanding and tolerance of others through promoting their understanding of differences, beliefs and cultures. The planned programme emphasises the development of social and working relationships in school and in workplace settings, and within the local community.

The school's policies and procedures promote students' responsible behaviour in school and when on placements, and their active participation in learning at all times. Students will be encouraged to value themselves and feel valued as individuals and members of a team in different settings, to make sensible choices and understand the consequences of their actions and to have the confidence to learn from experience. Students' cultural development will be promoted through taught subjects, a programme of visiting speakers, and visits at home and abroad. The school's plans include helping students to understand their rights and responsibilities within a democratic society, leading healthy and safe lives, and developing a clear set of values and attitudes within a clear moral code. Students will develop a concern for justice and for upholding the rights of others through learning about civil and criminal law. They will develop a broad knowledge of public institutions and services in England.

The school has drawn up comprehensive guidance for teaching about controversial issues that is likely to meet requirements. These include ensuring that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject and the requirement to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views at all times. Guidance on these issues is provided in the staff handbook and in a briefing document for external providers of education and enrichment.

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. It makes specific reference to the local children safeguarding board and to the procedures operated by

Weston College. The policy provides clear guidance to staff, governors and others about recognising and reporting abuse. Weston College's safeguarding team will be working closely with the school's designated lead for child protection to ensure that the shared site arrangements are well monitored. In addition, the school has drawn up safeguarding procedures specifically to support students undertaking work experience placements. The required training for the designated lead and others is arranged for before the school opens, but there are already sufficient school leaders trained at the higher level in child protection to meet requirements when the school opens. All staff will be provided with appropriate training in safeguarding matters as part of their comprehensive induction programme prior to the first students being admitted; this includes face-to-face learning and an online certified course.

The Principal designate and others involved in appointing staff have completed recognised training courses in safe recruitment procedures and other leaders are due to complete online training prior to the school opening. As a result, all the requirements are likely to be met. The school has a suitable policy and procedures for recruiting staff, based on Weston College's established procedures. The college's human resources staff are providing support and services for the school. All the required checks are being made on staff and the members of the proprietorial body as they are appointed, and the single central register is being populated as these checks are completed. These arrangements are likely to meet requirements.

The school's policies for promoting students' good behaviour and preventing bullying are likely to meet requirements. They are based on the Secretary of State's guidance and include an appropriate range of rewards and sanctions. The presentation of these policies and procedures reflects the emphasis the school is placing on preparing students for further training and employment. Suitable and secure electronic records will be maintained of the sanctions imposed on students for serious misbehaviour. The policy and procedures for ensuring students' health and safety, both in school and when on visits, are likely to meet requirements; all staff will undertake certificated online training in the school's procedures as part of their induction programme. The first-aid policy provides appropriate guidance; named staff are already trained in first-aid procedures and others are being trained before the school opens. The school will use a computerised database to provide admission and attendance registers that meet regulatory requirements.

A fire risk assessment of the completed temporary accommodation has already been completed and a further assessment is planned when the construction and fitting out of the laboratory wing is completed. A team of officers from the local fire brigade is involved in checking the premises and accommodation. The proprietor has made arrangements to provide the Department for Education with copies of the contractor's handover certificate, building regulations certificate and fire risk assessment when all the temporary accommodation is ready in August 2014. These actions are likely to meet requirements. The school has due regard to the Equality Act 2010, with an action plan drawn up to improve access to the premises, the curriculum and to information.

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 their suitability for working with children, as they are appointed. These are being 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 may in future employ staff through an agency although there are no immediate plans to do so; those leaders and administrative staff likely to be involved in arranging this are aware of the procedures to be followed should this occur. The school has also made provision for checking and recording the suitability of Weston College staff who may have contact with the school's students.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements for registration. A site visit was undertaken as part of this inspection visit and discussions were held with the Principal designate, Weston College's estate manager and the project leader. It was not possible to see all of the accommodation as the laboratories are not yet completed and are currently designated as a restricted area. The temporary accommodation will provide sufficient classrooms, offices and other facilities, including adequate washrooms and a suitable medical room, for the initial intake of students. There will be a suitable outdoor area for students' recreation. Physical education and games will be provided at a nearby sports centre where there are dedicated changing rooms and showers.

The security of the buildings and grounds is likely to meet requirements. There will be a dedicated school entrance and reception area, together with offices for senior leaders, teaching staff and administrators. Furnishings and equipment for the completed teaching rooms are already in place and more are awaiting delivery before students arrive in September. The mains utility services are connected and operational. All teaching rooms and laboratories will have wireless computer facilities. Weston College is providing maintenance and cleaning of the premises. The decoration, internal and external lighting, ventilation, heating and flooring are likely to meet requirements. The arrangements for fire risk assessments and visits from the local fire officer are likely to meet requirements.

The requirements regarding hot and cold water supplies are likely to be met. The washroom facilities for students, staff and visitors are already in place and are sufficient for the number of students sought. There are suitable washroom facilities for disabled people and appropriately equipped medical facilities for any students who are ill. A labelled supply of drinking water will be available to students throughout the day, and they will have access to the college's on-site dining facilities.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all regulations.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The provision is likely to meet 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 students: 700

Recommended number of boarders: N/A

Recommended age range: 14–19

Recommended gender of students: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.