

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

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School name	The Gatwick School
DfE registration number	938/4011
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Reporting inspector	David Young

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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

The Gatwick School is a proposed new free school located in Crawley, West Sussex. It is sponsored by the Crawley Free Schools Trust, which incorporates Mosaica and the Place Group. The school is planned to open in September 2014 with an intake of up to 60 children into the Reception class and up to 120 pupils into Year 7.

The school will open in partially refurbished accommodation on its permanent site in a building previously used as commercial office accommodation. During the academic year 2014 to 2015, refurbishment will continue to provide for a 1,020 place school admitting pupils in the age range four to 16 years.

The school is not yet operating and the implementation of its policies and procedures could not be seen.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

All the regulations in this part are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. The school's policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development states that: 'we aim to provide an education that provides children with: opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs; spiritual awareness; high standards of personal behaviour; a positive caring attitude towards other people; an understanding of their social and cultural traditions; and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures'.

The policy makes clear that pupils will learn to distinguish between right and wrong, and be encouraged to value themselves and others, and tolerate the beliefs and cultures of others. The curriculum includes a study of how civilisations developed through history, together with the importance of rules and value systems which are the basis of democracy and civil law. This will be extended to include a study of how public services and institutions have developed as part of the national and local communities.

Pupils will be provided with opportunities to engage with the local community and to learn about local services and institutions. Plans include, for example, a project to

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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)

decorate and maintain a local subway; opportunities to take part in the local community forum for traders and businesses; and the development of links with the services provided at Gatwick Airport. These projects will help to build self-confidence.

The school's humanities programme is based on a study of diversity of cultures, beliefs and lifestyles with a strong historical and multinational context. The Key Stage 3 curriculum includes the study of Asian civilisations, the growth and influence of Islam, patterns of global change and the growth of international power. The personal development policy places an emphasis on recognising and valuing the richness of cultural diversity in Britain. The curriculum extends to include the understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global context.

An introductory statement in the school's personal development policy makes clear the commitment to teach, and to encourage pupils to develop their own beliefs and values, in a balanced and non-partisan manner.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations, although the implementation of policies could not be checked. The school has prepared a suitable range of policies to meet the welfare, health and safety regulations. These include policies for safeguarding and child protection, safety on off-site visits, the management of behaviour, and the prevention of bullying. Appropriate rewards and sanctions are included in the behaviour policy. The executive headteacher is trained to the required level to act as designated person for child protection. Additional training to this level has been booked, to take place in September, for the recently appointed head of school, and for the Reception teacher. A suitable policy has been produced for first aid and arrangements are in place to train at least two members of staff in first aid before the school opens, so that requirements are likely to be met. Similarly, suitable arrangements are in place to update the paediatric first aid training for staff working with children in the Reception class. There is a planned induction programme in place for all staff before the school opens, to include training in child protection, fire safety and basic first aid.

Senior staff in the Trust have been trained in safe recruitment and all the required checks on previous professional history, professional and character references, and medical fitness have been completed for staff already appointed. These are entered on a suitable single central register for the new school.

The school has prepared a comprehensive health and safety policy. A firm arrangement has been made with a commercial company to complete a fire risk assessment for the premises, to be completed as soon as the first phase of the premises is handed over to the school. Confirmation of the fire safety of the building will be included in the building standards compliance certificate on completion of refurbishment. The school has purchased an electronic management information system which will record details of routine checks on fire safety equipment, emergency evacuations, incidents and sanctions, together with suitable admission and attendance registers.

The school has made suitable arrangements to ensure access to the premises and to the curriculum for disabled pupils. The required plan has been created to further develop accessibility once the refurbishment work is completed.

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

All regulations in this part are likely to be met. A suitable single central register has been prepared and details of all required checks on staff, proprietors and governors are being entered as they are completed. Enhanced disclosures, together with checks against the children's barred list are being sought for all staff engaged in regulated activity. Members of the proprietorial body and one member of teaching staff have overseas checks in addition to enhanced DBS checks. The academy has not appointed any agency supply staff but is aware of the required checks should it do so in future.

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

The accommodation to be used for the first year of operation is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is to be accommodated within refurbished office premises, on two floors which have access by two lifts. The initial refurbishment work will provide suitable teaching spaces, together with toilets, offices, a medical room and a school hall. This accommodation will be used for one year by children admitted to the Reception class and pupils admitted to Year 7. The premises have been maintained and decorated to a high standard.

Prior to occupation, the whole site will be fully fenced, and adequate external areas will be available for play and recreation for the Reception and Year 7 pupils. Existing toilets are to be re-modelled to provide suitable facilities for the initial intake, together with separate toilets for staff. The plans for the accommodation include appropriate arrangements for the supply of cold and regulated hot water, together with separate provision of labelled drinking water. A suitable medical room with the required facilities is included in the accommodation. Acoustic and lighting conditions are planned to meet requirements. Arrangements have been put in place with local providers for physical education and games for Year 7 pupils to take place in off-site facilities which have suitable facilities for changing and showers.

During the first year of occupation, further refurbishment work will continue to provide full accommodation for up to 1,020 pupils in the age range four to 16 years. The existing premises, prior to refurbishment, were viewed. Plans were viewed for both phases of the refurbishment work. The plans, if implemented in full, will meet all the required regulations. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the building process on behalf of the school. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

### **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: 60 in Reception and 120 in Year 7 (in the first year of operation); 1,020 on completion of the premises

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4 to 12 (in the first year of operation); 4-16 on completion

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.