

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

School name	Michaela Community School
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Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

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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

Michaela Community School plans to open in September 2014 as a non-denominational mixed comprehensive free school for students aged 11 to 18 years old in the London Borough of Brent. The school is being housed on the site of a former sixth form college which is being refurbished to cater for secondary school students. In the first year, the intention is to open with 120 Year 7 students and a further 120 each year to a maximum capacity of 840 students, including a sixth form. To date, 116 students have been registered for enrolment, one of whom has a statement of special educational needs. The school will offer a broadly traditional and academically rigorous curriculum. At Key Stage 3, students will be required to study English, mathematics, science, history, geography, music, art and a modern foreign language. At Key Stage 4, students will study the subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate, including English language, English literature, mathematics, science, humanities and a modern foreign language as well as optional subjects such as art and music. Information and communication technology will be a fundamental component of all subject areas and actively included in departmental schemes of work. An extended school day will allow students to take extra-curricular activities and enrichment classes covering literacy, numeracy, philosophy, sport, chess, drama, debating, orchestra and Mandarin.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural policy confirms the school's intention to provide students with 'opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, increase their spiritual awareness, develop high standards of personal behaviour and adopt a positive caring attitude towards other people'. Students will develop an understanding and tolerance of the beliefs and social and cultural traditions of others. A well-planned citizenship programme is aimed at ensuring that students will learn about the workings of civil and criminal law. Combined with a variety of external visits and visitors, the programme will ensure that students gain an insight into the nature of public institutions, both locally and nationally. The school will actively promote British values and knowledge of the richness of cultural

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

diversity in Britain through the curriculum, through assemblies and through personal, social, health and citizenship education, supplemented by trips to places such as art galleries, museums, theatres and universities. The school's documentation, including the staff handbook, highlights the need for all staff to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted and that any political issues are presented in a balanced way, acknowledging a range of opposing views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence suggests that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The school has produced a range of policy documents, including those for behaviour, complaints, equality, safeguarding, and health and safety. The safeguarding policy confirms the school's commitment to 'safeguarding the welfare of our pupils and to providing a safe environment with robust systems to ensure the safety and healthy development of all our pupils'. The Director of Inclusion is the school's designated child protection officer and will receive additional training for this role prior to the start of the academic year. A member of the governing body has already been appointed to the role of designated safeguarding governor. The school has identified first aiders and made suitable arrangements for their training before the school opens. The school intends to offer additional training to staff covering safeguarding, fire safety and first aid prior to the school's opening, so that requirements are likely to be met. The headteacher has received suitable safer recruitment training, and safer recruitment practices have been applied to the selection of all staff to date. Policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and a fire safety risk assessment has been prepared, with further checks to be carried out at the start of the academic year so that requirements are likely to be met. Admission and attendance registers are likely to meet requirements. An equal opportunities policy and a three-year action plan to improve access have been written.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's checks on the suitability of staff, including enhanced criminal record checks and checks against the DfE list 99, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Details of the checks have been recorded and dated on a suitable single central register covering staff, governors and volunteers. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of its responsibilities should the need arise in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school will be housed on the site of a former sixth form college which is located opposite Wembley Park station. The accommodation will initially consist of nine classrooms, including an information technology room and an art room, as well as a hall and dining facilities. The building has suitable access for those with disabilities and a suitably equipped medical room

has been identified for medical examinations and for students who may be ill. Further refurbishment, completed in the first year, will include science laboratories, music rooms and a school library. Physical education will be provided off the site at a local leisure centre with suitable changing and showering facilities. There is an adequate number of separate staff and student toilets, and enough space for safe outdoor play. Sufficient regard has been given to health, safety, access and security of the site. Suitable furniture, fixtures and fittings have been ordered and the premises are likely to meet the requirements for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and flooring. Water supplies, including safely regulated hot water and a labelled supply of drinking water, are likely to meet requirements.

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

Is registration recommended?

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

Recommended number of day pupils: 840

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11–18

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: Not applicable.