

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

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| School name                   | The Ruth Gorse Academy |
| DfE registration number       | 383/                   |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 1753                   |
| Inspection number             | 450528                 |
| Inspection dates              | 14 July 2014           |
| Reporting inspector           | Mohammad Ismail        |

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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 Ruth Gorse Academy is to be located temporarily for two years in The Morley Academy in the Morley area of Leeds. In September 2016 the academy will move into its newly constructed site in Leeds City Centre. The academy is sponsored by The Ruth Gorse Academy Trust which also runs four other academies and schools in the area. The academy is due to open in September 2014 and it has applied to be registered to admit up to 1,500 boys and girls in the age range 11 to 19 years. It will admit up to 275 students into Year 7 and Year 8 in its first two years. To date, 94 pupils have been registered for enrolment on opening. The academy will be non-selective and will admit some students with statements of special educational needs. The academy aims to 'prepare young people for an ever-changing world that values self-confident, well-educated and enterprising individuals.' The academy is not affiliated to any faith denomination and it welcomes pupils from all backgrounds.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

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

The academy is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The academy expresses its commitment to ensure that all its students will leave the academy equipped in the life skills that they will need to be successful in the next phase of social and economical aspects of their lives. The policies for behaviour and the prevention of bullying provide a strong context to enable students to understand the difference between right and wrong and how to develop appropriate relationships with others. The scheme of work for personal, social, health and citizenship education identifies opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the civil and criminal law and of public services in England. The curriculum includes a number of learning programmes that emphasise the development of personal values, such as independence, team work and personal motivation. Activities supporting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are identified and included in the programmes.

The academy's personalised curriculum will involve students in taking responsibility within the community, for example, working with local charities and social clubs. The students will have opportunities to take part in a variety of after-school clubs which will be offered by the academy in cooperation with local community organisations.

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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)

The citizenship themes are to be explored through the academy's business partnership working with local businesses and educational organisations, for example, West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre, Career Pathways and Armed Forces Careers. Opportunities are built into the curriculum to involve students in understanding democracy and voting. Students will have opportunities to play an active part in the students' council. The academy's 'Engage Programme' aims to support parents and carers to develop the confidence, skills, knowledge and understanding required to support their children in learning at home.

The academy recognises that it will be serving a culturally mixed population with diverse needs and has plans to develop links beyond the academy to ensure that students have the opportunity to identify and work with effective role models from diverse backgrounds. The curriculum includes a number of themes within its planned cross-subject programme that will encourage students to understand, tolerate and respect diversity of beliefs, cultures and religious practices. The academy has a commitment to promote a balanced and inclusive approach to political and religious views. There is no evidence of partisan political perspectives in the academy's documentation.

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

Documentary evidence indicates that the majority of regulations are likely to be met. All the required policy documents have been produced, including appropriate policies for safeguarding, behaviour management (including rewards, sanctions and exclusions), the prevention of bullying, safer recruitment and first aid. Members of staff have received training to the required levels in child protection, safer recruitment and first aid, including the designated lead person for child protection. Arrangements are in place for the training of all staff in child protection as part of the induction process before the academy opens, so that requirements are likely to be met. Training of the school's leaders and procedures for the appointment of staff meet the regulatory requirements.

Suitable policies and procedures have been prepared for all aspects of health and safety, including fire safety. A fire emergency action plan has been prepared but a risk assessment and fire authority report for fire safety have not been completed. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically on the academy's management information system; appropriate templates are in place for these. The academy meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 by having a suitable access improvement plan.

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

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, by producing a fire risk assessment and fire authority report for the premises (paragraph 13).

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

The academy's completion of the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the trustees, governors and staff appointed to date. These are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements. Checks are completed and entries on the register are updated as new staff are appointed. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but is aware of the requirements should such staff be appointed in the future.

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

The academy is likely to meet all the regulations. The newly-built temporary premises are going to be completed in August and plans indicate that they will be ready for handover to the academy in readiness before the agreed opening date of 25th August 2014. The site was visited and all regulatory requirements were inspected. The academy's permanent building site is managed by The Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Trustees. The permanent site will be ready to be handed over in August 2016.

Plans indicates that the temporary accommodation will provide sufficient accommodation and facilities for the Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to be admitted initially. There are sufficient classrooms of various sizes, including specialist subject facilities. New furniture is on order and is suitable to fully equip the accommodation. There are sufficient separate washrooms for students and staff, and a medical room which is appropriate for use by any pupil who may be ill. There will be sufficient drinking fountains in the building, and arrangements for the safe temperature control of hot water. There is sufficient outside space for play and recreation, including all-weather and grassed surface. The academy's accommodation and the site are both fully secure.

## **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. 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 academy should:

- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, by producing a fire risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 13).

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 275 initially, rising to 1,500

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.