

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

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School name	Whitehall Park School
DfE registration number	N/A
Unique reference number (URN)	1722
Inspection number	446952
Inspection dates	20 June 2014
Reporting inspector	David Scott

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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

Whitehall Park School will be located in an existing primary school building which has been vacant for the past two years in Islington, North London. Planning permission is currently being submitted to demolish the existing buildings with the intention of erecting a brand new four-storey building. In July, two temporary classrooms will be installed on the existing playground, together with a multi-purpose building for assemblies, dining and sporting pursuits. In addition, it is intended that the outside area will be suitably landscaped, to provide learning and leisure space.

The school is sponsored by Bellevue Place Education Trust and is due to open on 3 September 2014. The school has applied to be registered to admit 420 pupils aged from 4 to 11. It will admit children aged 4 to five in its first year. At present there are 41 children registered for enrolment. Currently there are no children who are registered for enrolment who have special educational needs or who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs. The school aims to 'blend the best from the independent and state sectors, and to have unashamedly high expectations for every child, academically, socially and emotionally'.

## 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. Through strong pastoral care and promoting academic rigour, the school intends to create an ethos which 'meets the needs of learners, fostering a love of learning, giving pupils the chance to experience success and equip them with the skills and attitudes needed to maximise progress in learning and to progress smoothly to secondary education'. The school intends to 'provide children with opportunities to explore and develop their values, beliefs and spiritual awareness'. This will be achieved by helping children to develop 'a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures'.

The promotion of pupils' personal learning and thinking skills (PLTS) will be a core thread running through the curriculum. It is intended that this will 'help pupils to *learn how to learn* and increasingly operate as informed, critical independent-minded

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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)

young citizens'. The school intends to develop 'strong home-school links' in order to enable parents to work in partnership with teachers 'to support the child's development'. Over time, the school intends to provide pupils with opportunities to become responsible citizens. These will include a number of community links, such as visits from local community leaders, together with visits to places of worship, and participation in an 'inspire' work week. The personal, social and health education and citizenship courses include activities designed to help pupils appreciate and respect the diversity of traditions and cultures globally and in the local community.

The planned assembly and tutorial programme, has been carefully thought through to stimulate pupils' appreciation of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects in their lives. Citizenship will be delivered as part of the programme for personal, social and health education and religious education, as well as through assemblies. The intention is to develop pupils' understanding of civil law and public institutions and services in England, in addition to promoting the school's values. The staff code of conduct gives guidance to teachers to ensure that planned lessons and activities will be free from partisan political or religious views. Where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view will always be presented.

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

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met. Policies for child protection, safer recruitment, safeguarding, behaviour, exclusions and preventing bullying have been prepared in accordance with requirements. The behaviour policy is focused on the 'fostering of socially acceptable behaviour', in order to achieve 'high standards of conduct by means of encouraging personal development in pupils'. The behaviour policy contains an appropriate range of rewards and sanctions designed to set boundaries that will promote good behaviour and limit 'breaks in social conventions'. The headteacher and one assistant headteacher have been trained in safer recruitment and child protection. The school has a member of staff with a paediatric first aid qualification. For those members of staff and governors still to be appointed, dates have been identified, and a specialist qualified trainer has been booked, to provide the required training in child protection, first aid and safeguarding procedures for all staff before the school opens, so that requirements are likely to be met.

Suitable health and safety policies and risk assessments have been completed for all required aspects. This includes a visit from the fire officer, firmly booked for the end of August, so that requirements are likely to be met. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's three-year accessibility plan details arrangements to review and improve access for disabled pupils.

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

All the required vetting checks on all appointed staff and members of the governing body are captured in a single central record which meets requirements. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but, should the need arise, it has appropriate

procedures in place to conduct the required checks on agency staff, although their implementation could not be seen.

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

A tour of the site was not possible. Scrutiny of the architect's plans confirm that phase one of the project is likely to meet the regulations in readiness for opening in September. This involves the installation of two temporary, single-storey classrooms, together with a multi-use building. As the supply of these temporary buildings is in accordance with the specification and contract with the Education Funding Agency (EFA), they are likely to meet regulations. There is a suitable number of washrooms available with safely regulated hot water, including two designated for disabled users. Heating, lighting and fire safety systems are likely to meet requirements. A labelled supply of drinking water will be accessible to pupils. The equality and disability policy details arrangements for disabled pupils to be admitted to the school. A suitable location has been identified for a medical room, complete with handbasin, and washrooms opposite. It is intended that the outside area will be attractively landscaped, and will include a canopied area for children to enjoy their learning and recreation.

In September 2014, phase two of the building programme is due to commence, and is likely to meet the regulations. Scrutiny of the architects' plans confirm that the four-storey new-build will have an appropriate number of classrooms and sufficient washrooms for the projected number of pupils on roll. These will include facilities for disabled users, together with a medical room.

## **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 pupils: 420

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4–11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.