

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

School name	Eden Boys School Bolton
DfE registration number	350/
Unique reference number (URN)	1644
Inspection number	446720
Inspection dates	3 June 2014
Reporting inspector	Sheila Boyle

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Information about the inspection

Context of the school

The proposed Eden Boys Free School Bolton is part of a multi-academy trust. It is to be located temporarily in the premises of a previous local authority care home in the Halliwell area of Bolton. These premises will be occupied for one year initially, whilst a new purpose-built school is constructed in the grounds of a former local authority school nearby. Application has been made to register the school to admit up to 700 male students in the age range 11 to 19 years. There are plans to open the school in September 2014 with an intake of 159 students in Years 7 and 8. The school will be non-selective with a Muslim ethos and will admit students of all faiths and those with no faith. Some students with statements of special educational needs will be admitted. The aim of the school is, 'to provide a distinctive and inclusive education shaped by Islamic principles and welcoming to all. The school will promote a culture of success which will be reflected in the excellent qualifications pupils obtain, academic and vocational'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is planning to meet all of the regulations but implementation could not be seen. The school's mission is to educate the whole person and prepare students for life in a multi-faith society. Students will be expected to focus on others' needs before their own; the school will aim to raise students' self-worth and give them the confidence that their individual faith and values can be used for the common good. The school's anti-bullying, behaviour and discipline, and inclusion policies set out the principles and procedures by which students may understand the difference between right and wrong and be supported in achieving the school's vision. A number of school policies, including those for faith, values, ethos, equalities and spiritual, moral and social development set out the principles by which students will be encouraged to contribute to the local and wider communities. The citizenship module is an essential element of the school's curriculum and includes a number of challenges to enable students to contribute in practical ways to the community. The school's policy for the spiritual moral, social and cultural development of students sets out the school's core values and demonstrates how these values are infused throughout the curriculum in a manner which contributes to all four aspects of students' personal development.

A number of subjects in the curriculum, including personal, social and health education and citizenship are designed to contribute to students' understanding of public institutions and services in England, together with respect for the fundamental values of British society. Examples include themes on democracy and justice, the civil law, advocacy and legal representation in the Key Stage 3 citizenship curriculum.

Further themes within the curriculum of a number of subjects are designed to assist students to develop respect and appreciation of cultural diversity. The school recognises that it will be serving a mainly Muslim local population and has plans to develop links beyond the school to ensure that students have the opportunity to identify and work with effective role models from diverse backgrounds. The religious education curriculum, for example, ensures that all students study different religious, cultural and philosophical perspectives and are helped to evaluate these in a respectful manner. The proprietor has taken positive steps to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in school. The school's curriculum documentation provides a balanced approach to evaluating different philosophical and political perspectives.

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. A senior member of staff is trained as the designated person for child protection and safer recruitment and several members of staff have received training to the required levels in child protection and first aid. Arrangements are in place for the training of all staff in child protection as part of the induction process before the school opens, so that requirements will be met. Procedures for the appointment of staff meet the regulatory requirements.

The school's health and safety policy identifies an appropriate range of procedures for ensuring health and safety, including fire safety on and off-site. Responsibilities are clearly defined, including the requirement for periodic checks on all aspects of fire safety. A premises risk assessment and condition survey has been completed which informs the refurbishment plans including the need to improve ventilation in some of the classrooms. A fire risk assessment has not been completed and awaits the handover of the premises following major refurbishment. Similarly, a planned visit from the fire authority has not yet been undertaken. Admission and attendance registers are to be maintained to an appropriate structure on the school's electronic management system, together with records of any serious misbehaviour. The required three-year plan to improve accessibility has been produced.

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

- comply with health and safety laws by ensuring that there is adequate ventilation in all areas where students are taught (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a suitable fire risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 13).

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all the required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all the regulations are likely to be met. All required checks have been completed for the governors and staff appointed to date. Details of these checks are entered correctly on to a suitable single central register. The school does not intend to appoint supply staff but is aware of the required procedures should such staff be appointed in the future.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations when the refurbishment plans agreed between the Department and the trustees are fully implemented. The temporary accommodation is located on the ground floor of a former local authority care home. Plans for the refurbishment were scrutinised and discussed with the headteacher, the proprietor and a representative from the Trust. The Education Funding Agency, the Department's delivery agent, is managing the preparation and refurbishment process on behalf of the Trustees. The Department will wish to continue to monitor progress with the premises directly with the Agency.

Work on the refurbishment is due for completion before the school's opening date on 3 September 2014. The site was visited and matters relevant to all regulatory requirements were inspected. Plans and timescales seen indicate that the premises will be ready for handover for the agreed opening date.

The refurbished premises will provide sufficient accommodation and facilities for up to 275 students in the age range 11-14 years. There are sufficient classrooms of various sizes, including specialist subject facilities for science and information and communication technology. New furniture is on order and is suitable to fully equip the accommodation. There are sufficient washrooms for students and staff including washrooms for disabled persons. There are two single shower rooms but insufficient showers for the number on roll. However, the school has located a local sports centre with showers, where all the physical education lessons will be taught until the new school opens. There is a medical room which is appropriate for use by any student who may be ill. The accommodation has several access points for disabled persons. The school does not intend to cook meals on site, but there are appropriate facilities for serving of food prepared off the site. There are sufficient labelled drinking fountains on each floor of the building and arrangements for safe temperature control of hot water. There is sufficient outside space for play and recreation, including all-weather and grassed surfaces; however, some are overgrown with weeds and shrubs. The school's accommodation and the site are both fully secure.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

- ensure that the outdoor play areas and pathways are clear and safe for use (paragraph 23G(1)(b)).

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. The school can be registered and allowed to open on receipt by DfE of evidence of improvement in relation to the following matters:**
- comply with health and safety laws by ensuring that there is adequate ventilation in all areas where students are taught (paragraph 11)
- comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 by producing a suitable fire risk assessment for the premises (paragraph 13)
- ensure that the outdoor play areas and pathways are clear of waste materials (paragraph 23G(1)(b)).

If registration is recommended, please state:

Recommended number of day pupils: 275 (in the first year)

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 11-14 (in the first year)

Recommended gender of pupils: Boys

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.