

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

School name	Holyport College
DfE registration number	868/4001
Unique reference number (URN)	1654
Inspection number	446871
Inspection dates	19 June 2014
Reporting inspector	Clementina Olufunke Aina

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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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

Holyport College is an all-ability, co-educational day and boarding free school. The college has applied to be registered for 500 boys and girls aged from 11 to 19. The college will reflect a Christian ethos, but welcomes children from all faiths. Pupils will be taught in a mixture of newly-built and refurbished accommodation. The college is due to open on the 3 September 2014. Approximately half of pupils will board in newly-built accommodation, which is the subject of a separate registration visit. Three of the 122 pupils registered for enrolment to date have statements of special educational needs. The majority of day pupils will come from the village of Holyport and the surrounding towns of Windsor and Maidenhead, whilst most boarders will be from the local area and London. The college plans to cater for service children boarding at the school. Eton College will support the school by taking a leading role on the governing body and pupils will access some of Eton's facilities, particularly for sport and educational activities. The college will have its own bursary scheme and will work in partnership with charitable foundations to provide boarding school provision for children from vulnerable backgrounds. One of the college's key aims is 'for every child to achieve academic success and fulfil their potential'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The college is likely to meet all the regulations, although implementation could not be seen. The college's proposed vision and purpose seek to 'empower pupils to make a positive contribution to the school and wider community through opportunities to develop strong personal relationships, learn, research and use information technology effectively'. The planned 'Learning for life' curriculum programme makes provision for developing community cohesion, with opportunities for 'pupil voice'. Enrichment activities will be provided, such as drama, cookery, music, photography, sports and off-site educational visits. These are some of the ways that the college aims to use to develop pupils' awareness of the wider world and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures. The curriculum planning demonstrates that pupils will have opportunities to pursue a range of interests, make purposeful links with the community. Teamwork and development of personal relationships are emphasised and the college has already established purposeful partnerships with Eton College and providers of education and training. The development of pupils' sense of right

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

and wrong will be made clear through the personal, social and health education programme. The behaviour management programme explains how incentives and sanctions will be implemented. Pupils will learn about local and national institutions and will gain an insight into the workings of civil law. There is no indication from any of the policies and recruitment procedures that any biased political views will be promoted at the college.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all requirements are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. The college has the required policies for safeguarding children and for the recruitment of staff. All senior staff and college governors have undertaken training in safe recruitment and child protection. Newly recruited members of staff are scheduled to undertake the required training before the college opens. Consequently, requirements are likely to be met. Background checks on staff and volunteers, such as their previous employment history, professional and character references, have all been undertaken. Policies for health and safety, emergency evacuation, safety on off-site visits and on trips are detailed and take account of current legislation such as the revised safeguarding guidance. It has not been possible for the school to provide a fire risk assessment because the building work has not been completed. The college has obtained written confirmation from a local fire training service that a fire safety risk assessment will be undertaken in late August when the building work is completed. As a result, the requirements are likely to be met. The college's code of conduct clearly sets out the high expectations of behaviour which pupils are required to adhere to. The safeguarding guidance is detailed and provides helpful guidance for staff on important steps to keep pupils safe. Suitable attendance and admission registers are available in an electronic format ready to use. The requirements of the Equality Act 2010 are likely to be met by the three-year plan, which is in place and is part of the college's ethos in ensuring fairness and eliminating discrimination.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The requirements are likely to be met, although implementation could not be seen. Almost all the required vetting checks on appointed staff and college governors are already compiled on a single central register which complies with requirements. A small number of recently appointed staff checks are ongoing and the stage of the verification process is indicated on the register. There are appropriate procedures in place to conduct the required background checks on staff. The single central register records all the outcomes of checks made on staff identities, qualifications, references, medical fitness and checks with the disclosure and barring service. At present no staff have been engaged who will not be directly employed by the school, but the school leaders are aware of the required procedures to ensure pupils' safety.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all requirements. Holyport College is being built on the site of a former residential school. There is a mix of new build and refurbishment of some old buildings. Pupils have access to an all-weather pitch and a grass sports pitch which will support the college's sporting curriculum. There is a large quadrangle in the middle of the campus which pupils will use as a social area. It is anticipated that a large greenhouse on the site will be restored and pupils will learn how to grow plants, fruit and vegetables. There is also a brand new sports hall which has separate changing facilities for boys and girls. All of the new buildings are accessible to wheelchair users. There are separate toilet facilities for boys and girls in each of the buildings and these toilets are wheelchair accessible. The college benefits from a dedicated medical facility which has separate overnight accommodation for male and female boarders. The medical room is well equipped and has washing facilities. All pupils have access to an extremely spacious and vibrant outdoor environment which is likely to support their learning and enjoyment well.

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: 275

Recommended number of boarders: 225

Recommended age range: 11–19

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.