

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

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School name	Braywick Court School
Unique reference number (URN)	1645
Inspection number	446862
Inspection dates	19 June 2014
Reporting inspector	Clementina Olufunke Aina

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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

Braywick Court School is a free school operated by Bellevue Place Education Trust. An application has been made for the school to be registered for 196 boys and girls from ages four to 11. The school plans to open to pupils in September 2014 with 28 children in the Reception Year. Braywick Court is located in the grounds of Braywick Nature Reserve, a short distance from the villages of Bray and Holyport and the town of Maidenhead in Berkshire. For the first year, the school premises will be the former Winbury Preparatory School but these premises will later be extended on to the site of the current Braywick Nature Centre. The school has an open admission policy and welcomes children from all backgrounds. The majority of children starting in the first year live less than two miles from the school. Braywick Court plans to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating learning environment with relatively smaller class sizes of 28 pupils, fostering links between school, home and the wider community. Active promotion of key values such as tolerance, courtesy, understanding and compassion is an integral part of the school's ethos.

## Compliance with the regulations

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

The school is likely to meet requirements but implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour, pastoral care and prevention of bullying policies set out a clear framework that aims 'to promote a caring and supportive environment that enables all members of the school community to feel secure and respected'. The school has adopted a range of personal, health and social education programmes with the aim of meeting its pupils' spiritual, social moral and cultural needs. There are planned systems in place to raise pupils' awareness of the high standards of conduct expected and to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions. The school places an emphasis on the use of praise and incentives to encourage pupils to make sensible decisions and develop a strong sense of right and wrong. The school plans to use 'weekly celebration' assemblies and 'golden time' to enable pupils to identify the difference between right and wrong. Curriculum planning makes provision for pupils to find out about local and national institutions and to learn about helpful people in the community through such activities as meeting local nurses and police officers. They will learn about the workings of the civil law in a similar way. Assembly

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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)

themes on Remembrance Sunday, Chinese New Year and Hindu festivals and story sessions from different cultures are some of the ways in which the school aims to celebrate the differences in cultures and promote tolerance. There is no indication from the school policies and publications that biased political views will be tolerated.

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

Braywood court has clear procedures and comprehensive policies for all areas of welfare, health and safety. The child protection policy specifies staff roles and responsibilities in safeguarding pupils and outlines the steps to keep children safe. One of the governors and the headteacher, who is the designated person for safeguarding, have had recent training in child protection. The rest of the staff are scheduled for training in safeguarding in early September, before the school officially opens, so that requirements are likely to be met. Previous background checks on staff and volunteers, which include their previous employment history, and professional and character references have all been undertaken. Policies for the prevention of bullying, safeguarding, first aid, emergency evacuation and off-site visits have been completed and will be adopted at the governors' meeting scheduled for the middle of July. The first-aid policy has all the required information and two members of staff have completed the paediatric first-aid training. Safe recruitment is achieved through the required recruitment and vetting process. The school's behaviour policy outlines rewards as well as sanctions and highlights parents' and carers' roles and responsibilities in supporting the school's work. As the refurbishment works have not been completed, the school has not conducted a fire risk assessment. However, the school has firmly booked a fire risk assessment for late August when the refurbishment works will be completed, so that requirements are likely to be met. The Equality Act three-year plan to improve access is in place and is part of the school's development plan.

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

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The required background checks have been made on the headteacher, staff and governors. The outcome of applications and stages of the verification process and the dates on which the information is received are recorded on a single central register which meets requirements. The school has not yet engaged any staff who are not be directly employed by the school, but leaders are aware of the checks to be made.

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

The school is likely to meet all the requirements. It is to be accommodated in the former school premises of Winbury Preparatory School and will be extended on to the site of the current Braywick Nature Centre. The inspector was able to tour the building although the refurbishment works are not yet complete. However, the

indications are that the learning areas will be spacious with areas that are specifically designated as classrooms, a library, an administrative room and a suitably equipped sick bay area. Plans are in place to give consideration to acoustic conditions with sound-absorbing panels. There are suitable toilet and washing facilities although there are no disabled facilities for pupils. However, there is an adult disabled toilet facility. Water supplies, including regulated hot water and labelled drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. The outdoor space is generous and adequate for learning and recreational purposes.

### **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.**

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 196

Recommended number of boarders: 0

Recommended age range: 4–11

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.