

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

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School name	Earl's Court Free School Primary
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Reporting inspector	Paul Metcalf

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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

Earls Court Free School plans to open in September 2014 as a mixed non-selective primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years old, serving the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea. The school is to open in response to parent pressure and the need for additional places locally. It will work in partnership with the West London Free School Primary and the West London Free School Secondary, and will share their site until new purpose-built accommodation is completed. In the first year, the intention is to open with one Reception class of 30 pupils and continue to admit 30 pupils each year until 2020. At that point, the school will relocate to its permanent home in Earl's Court and become a two-form entry school, admitting 60 children in each year to a maximum capacity of 420 pupils. To date, 30 pupils have been registered for enrolment. The school will offer a 'classical liberal education' focusing on a core of academic subjects complemented by art, music, drama and competitive sport. Pupils will learn about classical civilisation in Key Stage 1 and philosophy/classics in Key Stage 2. It is intended that most subjects will be taught by subject specialists. The school day will run from 8:30am to 3:30pm for Reception and Key Stage 1, and from 8:30am to 4.00pm for Key Stage 2. The extended day will be supplemented by enrichment activities such as art, cookery, craft, and yoga as well as externally provided classes in French, Spanish and dance.

## 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. The school's 'behaviour for learning' policy states that 'every pupil and every member of staff has the right to be part of a safe and supportive environment that is conducive to outstanding learning and teaching'. The school will actively promote cultural diversity and British values through the curriculum, through personal, social and emotional development (PSED) and through daily collective worship supplemented by trips to places such as the National Portrait Gallery, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and local theatres including a trip to the pantomime. The provision will ensure that pupils develop tolerance of the beliefs and cultures of others, and develop their awareness of the workings of civil law and local and national institutions. Collective worship, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian

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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)

belief, will also support the school's values of excellence, curiosity, fortitude, serenity and purpose, ensuring that all pupils are suitably prepared for the challenges they will face when they transfer to secondary school and beyond. The school's code of conduct suitably highlights the need for all staff to ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in any way and that any political issues are presented in a balanced way, acknowledging a range of opposing views.

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

Documentary evidence suggests that all regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. The school has produced a range of well-written policy documents, including anti-bullying, behaviour for learning, complaints, equalities, safeguarding, and health and safety. The Principal is the school's designated child protection officer and has received appropriate training for this role. The Assistant Principal will undertake additional training to support the Principal in the role. The safeguarding policy confirms the school's commitment to 'providing a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors and promoting a climate where pupils and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns that they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others'. The school intends to offer additional training to staff covering safeguarding, fire safety and behaviour management prior to its opening, so that requirements are likely to be met. The school has identified a number of first aiders who have received suitable training, including paediatric training, with additional training being offered to other staff at the start of the academic year.

The Principal is aware of her responsibilities for safer recruitment and has received appropriate training along with the Chair of Governors. Safer recruitment practices have been applied to the recruitment of all staff to date. Policies have been prepared for all required aspects of health and safety and a fire safety risk assessment carried out for the building so that requirements are likely to be met. Admission and attendance registers are likely to meet requirements. An equal opportunities policy, applying to all members of the school community, including pupils, staff, governors, parents and associated members of the school, and a three-year action plan have been written promote an understanding and respect of others, irrespective of cultural, national, religious or linguistic background to develop access for all.

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

The school's checks on the suitability of staff, including enhanced disclosure and barring scheme checks and barred list information, indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. Details have been recorded, checked and dated on a suitable single central register of staff checks. This covers staff, governors and visiting teachers. The school is well aware of its responsibilities regarding the employment and suitability of supply staff and has suitable checks prepared.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The school is temporarily housed on the site of the West London Free School Primary and the West London Free School Secondary. The accommodation will initially comprise of one classroom and one intervention room with access to a library and a hall for assemblies, dining and physical education. The school will expand temporarily into the secondary site as the secondary school moves to a new site next year. The building has suitable access for those with disabilities and a medical room which will be used for medical examinations or for pupils who may be ill. Sufficient regard has been given to health, safety and security of the site. Furniture, fixtures and fittings are sufficient and the premises are likely to meet the requirements, as are the arrangements for heating, lighting, ventilation, decoration and flooring. Water supplies, including safely regulated hot water and a single labelled supply of drinking water, are likely to meet requirements. Further drinking water facilities are planned. There are a suitable number of staff and pupil toilets, and sufficient space for safe outdoor play.

Plans for the new building are not yet available as it is not to be constructed until 2020.

## **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**

Is registration recommended?

- **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: Not applicable.