

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

School name	UTC Plymouth
DfE registration number	n/a
Unique reference number (URN)	139432
Inspection number	422404
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Reporting inspector	Susan Kara

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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

The proposed University Technical College, Plymouth, is located on the previous site of a local authority secondary school in Devonport, Plymouth. From the time of its original proposal the school has worked closely with Plymouth University, City College Plymouth, major local engineering employers and the city council. The school is due to open to students on 9 September. The school has applied to be registered to admit up to 650 students in the age range 14 to 19 years. It intends to admit students to Year 10 and Year 12 in 2013. There are 135 students registered for enrolment at present. Five of these have statements of special educational needs. The school aims to 'educate and train the most technically-minded students to meet the demands from industry for marine engineers and advanced manufacturers'.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations; however, implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour management and anti-bullying policies set out clearly how the school will build a community based on integrity and the unique value of each individual. The school aims to build students' self-esteem, to model conflict resolution and to protect the weaker members of the student group. The policies state the school's commitment to justice and compassion; mutual respect and trust are central to the school's ethos. The school's commitment to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students has been carefully mapped through the taught curriculum in general studies, religious education and personal, social, citizenship and health education. A clearly defined series of projects and visits is intended to contribute significantly to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. A distinctive feature of the school is a termly project with local employers through which students will be expected to demonstrate responsibility for their behaviour and show initiative. This will also give them an opportunity to contribute to the lives of those living and working in the locality. A series of activities and visits, for example Youth Parliament Elections and visits to Portcullis House and the Palace of Westminster, will contribute to students' general knowledge of public institutions and services in England. The citizenship course is central to the school's vision to 'enable

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

all young people to fulfil their potential, to become outstanding citizens and make a positive contribution to the economic growth and vision of the city to become the world leader in marine technology'. The school has scheduled a number of days each term within the citizenship course which will be devoted to promoting the students' understanding and respect for civil and criminal law and their respect for the diversity of viewpoints and cultures of others. The staff handbook and the planned staff induction week include suitable references to avoiding the promotion of partisan political views.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations, although implementation could not be seen. All the required policy documents have been produced including comprehensive policies for the health and safety of students and staff, which include a first aid policy, safeguarding and safer recruitment policies and policies for behaviour management and preventing bullying. The Principal and several of the governing body have been trained in safer recruitment and they have applied the relevant regulations and guidance in the appointments made to date. The special educational needs coordinator is trained to the relevant level to be the designated child protection officer. The school is holding a staff induction week prior to students being admitted, during which safeguarding training will be given to all staff and governors so that requirements are likely to be met. A number of staff are already trained in first aid and a suitable first aid policy has been written. Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements.

Appropriate policies have been prepared for all the required aspects of health and safety. A report from the fire authority, risk assessments for the premises and fire safety, and confirmation of compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 are included in the Safe to Occupy Plan. This is part of the documentation already prepared for the handover of the building from the contractors. The site and buildings are wheelchair accessible and, within the workshops and laboratory, fittings and furniture have been installed for wheelchair users. All fittings and the colour coding of the buildings have been installed with the partially sighted in mind. A three-year plan to increase accessibility has been produced.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's planning for the completion of all required checks on the suitability of staff and implementation to date indicate that all regulations are likely to be met. All the required checks have been completed for the governing body and the staff appointed; they are recorded appropriately on a single central register. Checks are being completed as new staff are appointed and the necessary entries made to the register. The school does not intend to employ supply staff but it is aware of its responsibilities should that situation change.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school is located on the site of the former Parkside Community College. The new school combines a mixture of new build and the extensive refurbishment of some of the old buildings. A project manager for the school has liaised closely with the contracted building coordinator and the Department for Education. The building coordination company has subcontracted the work to specialist companies as appropriate. Local engineering employers have had a significant input to the design of both the interior and exterior of the buildings. Consequently, the site has the feel of a modern engineering workplace and workshops have been finished to contemporary industrial design standards.

There are sufficient showers, toilets and appropriate hand-washing facilities. There are suitable facilities for the medical examination and treatment of students who may become ill. An appropriate catering area has been built. The school includes a number of specialist workshops, laboratories, classrooms, and study and relaxation areas. A dedicated teaching space and also a 'domestic facilities room' have been provided for students with special educational needs and to support those who may need help with independent living. The school has retained one of the former school's buildings with a view to refurbishing it if the anticipated 650 maximum student number is reached. There is sufficient outside space for recreation including a five-a-side football pitch. There is a large hall suitable for use as a physical activities space as well as for assemblies and an examination space. The entire site is enclosed by a suitable security fence.

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: 650

Recommended age range: 14 to 19

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.