

# Advice note for a 16–19 free school

---

College name	Abbeygate Sixth Form College
DfE registration number	4049
Unique reference number (URN)	147063
Inspection number	10103146
Inspection dates	20 June 2019
Reporting inspector	Linnia Khemdoudi



## Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the Secretary of State for Education. It was carried out under section 99(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>1</sup>

In carrying out this type of inspection, inspectors assess the extent to which the college is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent College Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.<sup>2</sup>

The inspector undertook a tour of the college site, reviewed the architect's plans for the permanent site, scrutinised information available on the college's website and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. She held discussions with the principal of Abbeygate Sixth Form College and the principal of West Suffolk College, which are part of the Suffolk Academy Trust.

## Information about the registration

The college is seeking registration as a 16–19 free school for:

<b>Number of day students</b>	1,700
<b>Age range</b>	16–19
<b>Gender of students</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the college

Abbeygate Sixth Form College (ASFC) is being developed by Suffolk Academies Trust, a partnership between One Sixth Form College in Ipswich and West Suffolk College in Bury St Edmunds. ASFC will open in September 2019. Initially, it will be located in temporary accommodation within West Suffolk College. ASFC will offer advanced-level qualifications across a wide range of subjects. ASFC will enrol students leaving Year 11 and moving into Year 12 from September 2019. Predicted numbers will be approximately 400. This is due to the capacity of the temporary accommodation. Over time, they will have the capacity to enrol approximately 1,700 young people.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The college is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens.
------------------------	--

<sup>1</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99).

<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made). Part 1 to Schedule 1 is not reported against because it does not apply to academies, free schools, studio schools and UTCs.

## **Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014**

### **Part 2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students**

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The college policies promote core values such as honesty, integrity, courtesy, respect to all people and acceptance of personal responsibility. Through the tutorial and enrichment programme, there are a range of opportunities for students to build skills in leadership and mentoring, working with others, and developing mutual respect and tolerance for those of other beliefs and traditions. The promotion of British values is clearly embedded through a range of policies and planned activities.

### **Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of students**

The college is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. Relevant policies are already in place, including health and safety, including fire safety; behaviour; risk assessment; first aid; safeguarding; and 'Prevent'. These indicate that senior leaders have a secure understanding of how to ensure students' safety. The policies meet all statutory requirements. Governors will receive relevant reports throughout the college year to ensure that they are kept up to date with all aspects of students' safety. The college's anti-bullying policy clearly outlines a zero-tolerance approach to any form of bullying and includes relevant strategies for addressing any issues.

### **Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors**

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations. The single central record is already in place. This details the required checks made, by whom and when. The checks, including those for governors, are recorded on the system. Staff are well qualified and have relevant experience of working with young people in an academic setting. Safe recruitment practices are robustly followed.

### **Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools**

The college is likely to meet all of the regulations. The college will initially use a pre-existing, purpose-built building that is currently part of the West Suffolk College estate. The building meets all current requirements including, for example, disabled access, provision for first aid, toileting and medical facilities. The plans for the new permanent building are well advanced and show details of high-quality resources that meets all requirements.

### **Part 6. Provision of information**

The college is likely to meet all the requirements. All the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website is being updated with the most recent policies and information. Copies of these policies can be made available on request.

## **Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled**

The college is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive and clearly written. It contains all the necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints. There is provision for independent oversight of any decisions made. The policy will be available on request to students, customers, clients, parents, guardians, businesses and organisations involved with the college. Once the policy has been formally agreed it will be made available on the college's website.

## **Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools**

The college is likely to meet all of the requirements. The principal has previous experience of opening and running a sixth form college. He has a good understanding of the regulatory requirements having fulfilled them successfully. The leadership team has implemented very effective policies that provide for the welfare, health and safety of students. They are also clear about how they will continue to monitor the provision so that all statutory requirements are met. They have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to do this well.

## **Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010**

The college is likely to meet all of the requirements. The policy for equalities identifies all relevant groups. It is clear about how to support each group of students and monitor impact. Plans for the new permanent building show that it meets all regulatory requirements for disabled access.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2019