

# Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of a free school

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School name	Ark Pioneer Academy
DfE registration number	302/4013
Unique reference number (URN)	147061
Inspection number	10103208
Inspection dates	13/06/2019
Reporting inspector	Nasim Butt HMI



## 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 school is likely to meet 'The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014' when it opens.<sup>2</sup>

The inspector conducted a tour of the proposed school site and considered the architect's plans for the site. Discussions were held with the principal, regional director and project leader regarding how they intend to make sure the requirements of the relevant standards are likely to be met. The inspector reviewed the school's website and scrutinised a range of policies and documentation related to safeguarding, pupils' well-being and health and safety.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	1200; initially 180 in September 2019
<b>Age range</b>	11–18
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	N/A

## Context of the school

This new provision is a secondary school within the Ark Academies Trust, a multi-academy trust. The school will open in September 2019, in purpose-built, state-of-the-art facilities. In the first year of opening, the school will accommodate up to 180 pupils in Year 7. Each academic year, the school will expand with the addition of a new year group. This expansion will continue until 2026, when the school will have students in all year groups within the secondary phase and post-16, from Year 7 to Year 13. At this point, the projected school roll and maximum number of pupils will be 1200. The multi-academy trust expects the school to achieve its maximum number of pupils by 2026.

<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.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

<b>Overall outcome</b>	The school is likely to meet all the relevant independent school standards when it opens.
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## **Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014**

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The development of pupils' understanding of modern British society is at the very core of the school's culture. The school's 'values and character development' programme is well designed and provides a strong foundation for personal, social, health and economic education. Pupils will receive opportunities to secure their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through both the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Pupils will visit different places of worship and learn from visitors to the school, including members of the local police force and fire brigade.

The school's behaviour policy focuses strongly on pupils demonstrating tolerance and respect towards all people, including those with protected characteristics as set out in the 2010 Equality Act. This core tenet of the school's behaviour policy is intended to ensure that pupils are secure in their understanding of fundamental British values.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. All of the required policies are in place, including those related to behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid, and health and safety. The school's safeguarding policy explains comprehensively every adult's responsibility to keep pupils safe. There are clear instructions about the actions that all staff must take regarding any concerns over pupils' welfare.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The school's single central register records all of the required checks on the suitability of staff. Checks include the staff that the school will directly employ to manage its on-site catering service. Leaders have received training in safer recruitment. They are fully aware of their duties regarding checking the suitability of staff to work with children.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The school will operate from a purpose-built, state-of-the-art building. The building's design ensures that pupils are able to take advantage of a comprehensive range of educational and welfare facilities. The school's site includes substantial outdoor facilities, where pupils can play, and undertake physical education. There are appropriate facilities for the short-term care of sick or injured pupils.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements. The school website is already operational, and includes useful information and documents for parents and prospective parents. All required policies have been written and there are clear plans in place to upload them on to the website before September. Documentation provided indicates that parents will receive detailed reports on all aspects of their children's education, including their academic and personal development.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The school's complaints policy explains clearly the actions that parents should take, should they wish to make a complaint. The policy also outlines how the school will respond to such complaints and any subsequent appeals. This includes the timeframe in which senior leaders will respond to the complaint.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant standards in this part. Leaders demonstrate a strong understanding of all the standards. They are able to see the links between different standards, which is reflected in the way they articulate how policies will be implemented. Leaders have drawn successfully on expertise from within the multi-academy trust to devise high-quality policies and procedures, for example, those related to behaviour, equalities and quality assurance of the school's work.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The site has adaptations, such as lifts and toilet facilities, for pupils or adults who may have a disability. Documentation shows clearly how the school will promote and support equality of opportunity between all groups. For example, leaders have produced useful practical guidance for staff in their 'Pupil Transgender and Gender Reassignment Code of Practice'.

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