

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

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School name	Borough Academy
DfE registration number	210/4006
Unique reference number (URN)	147073
Inspection number	10103214
Inspection dates	14/05/2019
Reporting inspector	Brian Oppenheim 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 scrutinised information available on the federation and school websites, and reviewed a range of policies and procedures. He reviewed the architect's plans for temporary and permanent buildings and held discussions with the principal designate, the vice-principal designate and the architect.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

<b>Number of day pupils</b>	1150
<b>Age range</b>	11 to 18
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Type of special educational needs</b>	Not applicable

## Context of the school

Borough Academy is sponsored by the Haberdashers' Aske's Federation Trust. When it opens in September 2019, it will be housed in temporary buildings on part of the Grotto Place Playground, Great Suffolk Street, London SE1. It will move to a permanent site at 94 Southwark Bridge Road, London SW1 in September 2020. The school will open with 180 Year 7 pupils.

## 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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<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 school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in relation to this part. The federation's and the school's policies, including sex and relationships, and curriculum and assessment, show a clear intent to provide pupils with experiences that will promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Draft programmes for assemblies, personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and 'drop down' days provide clear evidence of how this intent will be implemented. For example, British values are woven through the programmes. Weekly assembly themes emphasise British values. Religious study lessons for all pupils will enable the school to provide for pupils' spiritual and moral development effectively.

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

The school is likely to meet the relevant requirements in relation to pupils' welfare, health and safety. All required policies and procedures are available on the federation or school's websites, including those for health and safety, first aid and child protection.

The school is adopting many of the policies in use at other schools in the federation. For example, those in relation to pupils' welfare and health and safety. Other policies include anti-bullying, guidance for children who are looked after by the local authority, medical needs and special educational needs and/or disabilities provision. In addition, the adoption of the federation's policies for attendance and exclusions indicate that admission and attendance registers are likely to be maintained in accordance with requirements.

A fire safety assessment has been carried out by the architects of the new buildings. This shows that there are sufficient and appropriate arrangements for fire evacuation.

The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out clear expectations for staff, parents and pupils with respect to managing all types of bullying, including cyber-bullying.

The child protection policy meets current requirements. It provides clear guidance about procedures for raising concerns, recognising the signs of abuse and what actions to take if there is a concern. The policy makes clear that staff are required to read and understand Part 1 of 'Keeping children safe in education' (2018).

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in relation to this part. All required checks related to the suitability of staff who work with children have been,

or are being, carried out for those who have been appointed. Checks for trust and board members are held centrally with the trust. The single central record of recruitment checks meets current requirements. It includes checks for staff identity, medical fitness, the right to work in the UK, qualifications, criminal records and section 128 disqualification.

The federation's procedures for the safe recruitment of staff are used by the school. Vetting checks include all the documents required, before a member of staff can take up their appointment. These include references and a DBS enhanced certificate.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in relation to premises and accommodation. The plans for the temporary and permanent buildings show that there are suitable facilities for lavatories, washing and first aid, including for pupils who have complex needs. There is a dedicated medical room in the permanent building that has water and is close to toilets. On the temporary site, an office space with running water has been identified. As a result, pupils' welfare, health and safety are likely to be promoted effectively.

The accommodation provides enough space for learning across the secondary curriculum, including specialist facilities and resources for science, art, and design and technology. Facilities for physical education will include a local sports ground, especially during the first year. This includes changing and shower facilities. Once the permanent building opens, the site of the temporary building will become a sports hall for school and community use, with full provision for changing and showering.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements for registration. All required policies are published on the federation's and/or school's website. This includes the child protection policy, which meets current statutory requirements.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements in this part. There is a suitable complaints policy that sets out the procedures for complainants. This includes the right of a complainant to a formal resolution if the complaint cannot be resolved informally. It also provides the right for complainants to invoke a formal hearing by a panel of three people. The policy meets the requirements for confidentiality, making it clear that findings and recommendations are provided to the complainant.

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

The school is likely to meet all the relevant requirements. Senior leaders, governors and trustees are highly experienced and bring a wide range of knowledge and expertise to their roles.

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

The school fulfils its duties under the Equality Act 2010. The trust's single equalities and update statement provides a clear rationale. They also include the responsibilities of the federation, the school, staff and pupils to implement the policy effectively.

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