

Advice note for a pre-registration inspection of an academy

School name	Kings Gate
DfE registration number	865/2044
Unique reference number (URN)	146091
Inspection number	10103255
Inspection dates	08/07/2019
Reporting inspector	Stephen McShane 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 2008.¹

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.²

The inspector undertook a tour of the school site, reviewed the architects' plans for the building and met with the project manager and representative of Wiltshire local authority's building services who are overseeing the project. He met with the executive headteacher, the head of school, the chair of the board of trustees of the King Alfred Trust and the chair of governors of the school. He scrutinised school policies and information available on the school website and the information the school had submitted to the Department for Education.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as an academy for:

Number of day pupils	210
Age range	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	N/A

Context of the school

The new school will be the second school of the King Alfred Trust. It is located approximately 35 minutes away from the other school of the trust, Pewsey Primary School. It is located in a new housing development that is still growing. The school is being built, in part, to respond to the army's decision to relocate troops and families back to England. Therefore, more families need to be housed close to barracks in the Wiltshire local authority area.

The school will open in September 2019. It is intended that initially the school will provide for 30 pupils in the Reception class and 15 pupils in each of Years 1 to 4. It is intended that the school will grow each year by admitting 30 pupils into the Reception class. There are currently 42 applications for places for September 2019.

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

² 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.

Pewsey Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in January 2017. Inspectors judged that the good quality of education was maintained. It is intended that the new school will, at least initially, adopt many of the policies of Pewsey. The executive headteacher, who was the headteacher of Pewsey Primary, will oversee the school.

It was anticipated that the building would be completed for the start of the academic year 2019. However, one of the contractors went into liquidation and another contractor had to be employed. This has slowed the work. The local authority has therefore developed contingency plans. It is now intended that high-quality temporary buildings will be placed on the school site. These will be self-sufficient, although pupils will have access to the school's play and sports areas. It is anticipated that the school building will be transferred to the trust before the October half term 2019. The school will then move into the permanent buildings.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	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 school's policies are based on the existing good practice of Pewsey Primary School, where pupils are encouraged to develop their full potential: socially, emotionally and academically. Personal, social and health education (PSHE), collective worship and British values policies describe how discrete events such as celebrations and themed days complement activities within the broad and balanced curriculum to develop SMSC. The headteacher who has been recruited is an experienced deputy headteacher. She is particularly knowledgeable about some of the particular needs and backgrounds of pupils from military backgrounds that she will be able to respond to.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all relevant regulations. Policies are in place, building on the good practice of the trust and Pewsey Primary School. These include health and safety (including fire safety), behaviour, anti-bullying, first aid, educational visits and safeguarding. There are clear roles and responsibilities for individuals described in the policies. Leaders are very knowledgeable and are passionate in their desire to ensure a school that is safe and promotes the welfare, health and safety of pupils. The head of school has recently completed additional training. This means she can be the designated safeguarding lead as well as the first-aider. She will be supported by the executive headteacher, who will monitor her work.

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

The school is likely to meet all regulations. The single central record is already in place. It is based on the single central record of Pewsey Primary School, which meets requirements. This details the required checks, by whom and when, and when these checks are recorded on the system, including for governors, volunteers and contracted staff. Recruitment procedures for posts at Kings Gate have been rigorous.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. The permanent building is well advanced. It has been designed according to national guidance which has been adapted because of the site and particular archaeological and environmental expectations. It has extensive outside spaces.

The temporary buildings that will be required for a short time are of high quality. They will be significantly bigger than required for the 42 pupils that are on roll. They will have all the necessary facilities. Leaders are working together effectively to ensure that the site will be safe and secure. Leaders have thought carefully about

the need to provide pupils with temporary accommodation that meets their needs. They are very diligent.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all requirements. All the required policies are in place and available. The website is being updated and will use the Pewsey Primary School's website as a model. This website meets requirements.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the relevant regulations. The complaints policy is comprehensive. It contains all necessary steps and the timelines for the efficient handling of complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. The trust and the executive headteacher already have the experience of running a successful primary school. Trustees and governors have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. They have developed a clear scheme of delegation that clarifies roles of members, trustees and the local governing board. This has been necessary as the trust moves to manage more than one school. They are also pragmatic and accept the need for ongoing reflective practice to ensure that the leaders are supported and challenged. Leaders have established clear structures to ensure that pupils are safe, and these are monitored. The trust have established a new local governing board, which will be expanded when pupils are admitted. Leaders use external support such as Wiltshire local authority to strengthen the advice and information for the school.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the requirements. It is clear from the school's policies that the achievement of all pupils is a priority. The leadership has already identified those groups that might be at risk. The new building has lifts and necessary adaptations, for example for toileting, that anticipate that disabled pupils may be admitted.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All the statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The school will initially open a Reception class. Staff appointed are suitably qualified and experienced. Policies are in place that detail specific approaches to the curriculum or connect well with whole-school policies and meet current requirements.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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