

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

School name	Nerrols Primary School
DfE registration number	865/2054
Unique reference number (URN)	146778
Inspection number	10103197
Inspection dates	05 July 2019
Reporting inspector	Matt Middlemore 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

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as an academy for:

Number of day pupils	420 and 32 nursery
Age range	2–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	N/A

Context of the school

Nerrols Primary School is a proposed two-form entry primary school. It includes nursery provision for 2- to 4-year olds. An additional 5,000 houses are being built in the local area of West Monkton. The school is located at the heart of the new housing development. The school is part of the Richard Huish Trust. Most schools within the local area are also part of the trust. This will be the fifth school to join the trust. Currently the trust has one secondary school and three primary schools. The vision of the trust is to provide 'exceptional education from Nursery through to sixth form'. From September 2019, the proposed school will comprise of three classes, one Nursery, one Reception and one mixed-age year group of Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. The plans are for the school to grow over time to a two-form entry school as the number of houses increases.

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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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.

Compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

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

The proposed school is likely to meet the standards in this part. Leaders have curriculum plans in place to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They have adopted the same values that are already embedded across the trust: equality, respect, collaboration, honesty and integrity. This is so all schools in the trust work towards the same vision. These align closely to British values. Opportunities for pupils to learn about the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 are also planned for, through a programme of assemblies and wider curriculum learning.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet the standards in this part. There is a strong understanding of the requirements for keeping children safe and how to create and maintain a strong culture of safeguarding. Training in up-to-date policy and procedures is planned for, prior to the proposed opening date, for all new members of staff. The safeguarding policy states clearly what action staff will take if they have concerns about a child. Proposed staffing levels are appropriate to supervise pupils: these include arrangements for children in the early years. There are clear systems in place to record any incidents of poor behaviour and bullying. All policies are in place to manage any inappropriate behaviour. The school has also adopted a robust health and safety policy from within the trust.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet the standards in this part. The school has a suitable process in place that meets the requirements relating to recruitment set out in 'Keeping children safe in education (2018)'. The school has adopted a single central record that is already used across the trust. This record meets current requirements. There are also appropriate arrangements in place for the use of supply staff and volunteers. Appropriate checks have already been made on governors overseen by the chair of the trustees. Leaders are waiting for registration before they can finalise their checks on the proposed teaching staff.

Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The proposed school is likely to meet the standards in this part. Leaders have thought carefully about the design of the building to ensure that pupils are able to access state of the art facilities. For example, the new school has a 3g sports pitch, design technology room and a room dedicated to science. The classrooms, including the provision in the early years, have been well thought out to ensure that pupils are able to have the opportunity to learn in high-quality provision.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet the relevant standards in this part. The school's website is in place and leaders have already published the vast majority of the required information. Leaders have created an information publication for parents that sets out their plans for the future and the curriculum on offer.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet the standards in this part. The school has adopted the trust's established policy for handling complaints. It is compliant with current requirements.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet the standards in this part. The trust has recruited an experienced school improvement partner with a strong track record of school improvement to oversee the work of the newly appointed headteacher. Furthermore, an experienced headteacher from outside of the trust has been appointed to take up the role of a 'critical friend'. The chair of the local governing body is also a senior leader in education within the trust. Alongside the primary headteacher, they both articulate a clear vision for the school and hold high aspirations for their pupils. There are suitable arrangements for governance in place that will ensure that leaders are held to account with sufficient rigour and an established board of trustees will provide strategic oversight.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The trust meets the requirements of schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010. They have taken these into account when planning the new building. The building comprises two floors and has a lift installed for wheelchair users and pupils with other disabilities. There are planned evacuation routes that take into consideration the needs of pupils and staff with disabilities.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

The school is likely to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Leaders have appointed appropriate staff with suitable expertise and qualifications to lead and teach children in early years. Plans and policies are in place to ensure that provision meets children's needs. The planned staffing ratios meet the current legal requirements. The setting has suitable provision for children to learn both inside and outside of the classroom.

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