

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

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| School name                   | Paxman Academy  |
| DfE registration number       | 4034            |
| Unique reference number (URN) | 147080          |
| Inspection number             | 10103202        |
| Inspection dates              | 3 June 2019     |
| Reporting inspector           | Andrew Hemmings |



## 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 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 undertook a tour of the new school site, scrutinised information available on the school's website and reviewed a range of the school's documents. Documents scrutinised included those relating to the school's policies and procedures and the single central record of recruitment checks. The inspector held discussions with the headteacher and deputy headteacher of the school, as well as the chief executive officer, the director of standards, the chief operations and finance officer, and the human resources manager of the multi-academy trust.

## Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Number of day pupils</b>              | 900 pupils     |
| <b>Age range</b>                         | 11 to 16       |
| <b>Gender of pupils</b>                  | Mixed          |
| <b>Type of special educational needs</b> | Not applicable |

## Context of the school

The new provision will be an 11 to 16 secondary school within the Sigma Trust. It will open in September 2019 in a new building, initially admitting 180 pupils in Year 7, growing to a final capacity of 900.

The Sigma Trust already runs nine other schools.

## Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

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| <b>Overall outcome</b> | The school is likely to meet all the 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/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/contents/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 of the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have plans to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within and beyond the curriculum. Through personal, social and health education (PSHE), for example, pupils will learn about equality. Pupils will build their understanding of democracy through PSHE, assemblies and the work of the school council. The religious education curriculum considers laws and ethics, while specific days will be devoted to improving pupils' cultural awareness.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have appropriate policies to encourage good behaviour and to protect pupils from bullying. Leaders are in the process of determining staffing allocations to ensure appropriate supervision in the new building. A preliminary fire risk assessment has been completed and is scheduled for review once the building has been completed. Health and safety, first-aid, risk assessment and safeguarding policies are in place.

### **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 single central record is maintained by the multi-academy trust and is already in place. The record shows that appropriate checks will be conducted on adults who work in the school and will include those responsible for governance. Checks have been conducted on staff already employed by the school.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The new school building is due to be handed over to the school later this month (June 2019). The new building is set in grounds that will provide for outdoor sport and play. The building itself complies with the requirements for school premises, such as the provision of welfare facilities and external lighting.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The school already has a website, which contains information such as the arrangements for admissions, misbehaviour and exclusions. The website makes some of the required information readily available to parents. Leaders have firm plans to make other information available on the website as it is generated. Leaders have determined the format for reports to parents about pupils' progress and attainment.

## **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 is fully compliant with requirements and is available on the school's website. The policy details how to make complaints, how complaints will be managed and how the resolution of complaints will be communicated to the parties involved.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders demonstrate a clear understanding of their role in establishing and running a new school. Leaders have well considered policies in place prior to opening and are supported by an established multi-academy trust. Leaders are likely to meet all the independent school standards consistently and have the policies and understanding to actively promote the well-being of pupils.

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

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this requirement. The school has secure plans to ensure that pupils have full access to the premises and curriculum. The plans will be developed further in discussion with key stakeholders when the school is in operation.

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