

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

School name	The Mease At Hilton
DfE registration number	2064
Unique reference number (URN)	147088
Inspection number	10103165
Inspection dates	11/06/2019 to 11/06/2019
Reporting inspector	Deborah Mosley



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 met with the executive principal, the principal designate, the director of education and the chief executive officer of the Spencer Academies Trust. She spoke by telephone with the chair of the board of trustees and the trust's head of governance. The inspector visited the proposed site and undertook a tour of the premises with senior leaders. A range of documentation was considered, including the school's single central record, policies and documents relating to safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, health and safety, and first aid.

Information about the registration

The school is seeking registration as a free school for:

Number of day pupils	210
Age range	4 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Type of special educational needs	All, excluding severe learning difficulties

Context of the school

The proposed free school is a new primary academy in Derbyshire. The school will initially take children in the Reception class. Additional year groups will be added over time.

The Mease at Hilton will be part of the Spencer Academies Trust. The trust currently comprises 16 primary and secondary academies. Governance is provided by the board of trustees and a local governing body.

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.

Advice to the Secretary of State for Education

Overall outcome	The school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens.
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Recommended number of day pupils	210
Recommended age range	4 to 11
Recommended gender of pupils	Mixed
Recommended type of special educational needs	All, excluding severe learning difficulties

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 will promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the curriculum, its behaviour and rewards policy, and a thorough programme of personal, social and health education, based around the school's 'REFLECT' (resilience, enjoyment, family, life-long learning, everyone achieving, communication, teamwork) values. Leaders plan to focus on an individual British value each week, exploring issues through the curriculum, assemblies and the pastoral programme. Leaders plan to establish a school council where pupils, of all ages, will take part in debates and decision-making processes. Leaders have established close links with another primary school in the local area, which is also part of the trust. Plans are in place for pupils to work with pupils from this school and others in the trust to give pupils the opportunity to collaborate with older pupils. For example, pupils will attend events such as sports days at other schools. Leaders are keen to provide pupils with opportunities to experience a range of cultural activities, such as visits to the theatre and ballet.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The principal designate will be the school's designated safeguarding lead. Leaders have liaised closely with pre-school providers to gain an understanding of individual pupils' needs. The school's policy for safeguarding is thorough and leaders have considered risks that are pertinent to the local area. The school has a comprehensive set of policies that cover all aspects of welfare, health and safety. Plans are in place for an external check of fire safety. Plans are also in place to train all staff as appropriate to their role. For example, the Reception class teacher is scheduled to undertake level 3 safeguarding training.

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 in place and meets requirements. Staff who have already been appointed have been subject to the necessary checks. Safer recruitment practices are followed. Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that supply staff are suitable 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 building and site is nearing completion. They have been designed to promote pupils' welfare and safety and meet all requirements. Classrooms are of a suitable size and are light and airy. They provide easy access to the external areas. Plans are in place to

develop the early years outdoor area. There is a large, flexible hall space, which leaders plan to use for assemblies and dining. Leaders have given due consideration to the access and egress of the building.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The website is clear and contains all the necessary information. All required policies have been drawn up and are already available on the website, including the safeguarding policy. Links to the trust's website are clear. Leaders have designed a clear and informative report to share pupils' progress and attainment with parents and carers.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. The complaints policy is clear and provides an appropriate framework for parents to raise concerns. It contains all the necessary steps and the timeline for handling complaints is appropriate. The complaints policy is on the school's website and available as a paper copy on request.

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 are very well prepared for the opening of this new school. The trust has a track record of school improvement and is providing effective support to the school's leaders. Leaders have given due consideration to how they will support staff and develop their leadership. School and trust leaders are clear about how they will evaluate and monitor all aspects of the school's work. Leaders are working closely with other staff in the trust and with staff from local schools to prepare to meet pupils' needs. School staff will have access to the trust's training and development programme.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have given thought to the needs of disabled pupils, for example, by ensuring that the site and buildings are accessible. The school's values promote understanding of the protected characteristics, and curriculum plans clearly identify how the school will promote pupils' understanding of diversity.

Statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

All statutory requirements for the early years are likely to be met. The Reception class teacher has already been appointed and is experienced and well trained. All required policies are in place.

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