

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

School name	Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls
DfE registration number	203/4005
Unique reference number	143686
Inspection number	10103254
Inspection dates	3 June 2019
Reporting inspector	Jude Wilson, 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 a free school for:

Number of day pupils	1200
Age range	11–16
Gender of pupils	Girls
Type of special educational needs	N/A

Context of the school

This new school is a secondary school for girls within the Poly multi-academy trust. The other school in the trust is Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys. The school will operate in a new building adjacent to the boys' school. The first phase of building work is due to be completed by the start of September 2019, ready for the first intake of pupils. It is anticipated that 240 pupils will join the school in September 2019. The trust plans to share expertise across both schools.

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 school is likely to meet all the regulations in relation to this part. Leaders have carefully planned a curriculum with pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development at the heart. They have built in opportunities for pupils to learn, understand and respect British values. Weekly 'Personal Development' lessons aim to develop the skills and attitudes that pupils need to participate in the school and wider community. For example, leaders aim for pupils to develop civic leadership through community projects. The school plans to have a 'Poly Parliament' to promote democracy and ensure that pupils' opinions are listened to.

Part 3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. The school's policies indicate that safeguarding, health, safety (including fire safety), behaviour, risk assessment and first aid are secure, and comply with guidance. Leaders have organised for a fire risk assessment to be conducted prior to the initial building work being completed. The school's anti-bullying policy is clear and detailed. As part of pupils' induction, they will learn about how to prevent different types of bullying and how they are expected to behave.

Part 4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors

The school is likely to meet all the standards in this part, provided that it addresses the regulations set out in the table below. The single central record of staff checks is already in place. Teaching staff appointed have had the required statutory checks completed, prior to appointment.

In order to meet the requirements in full, the school should:

Carry out Section 128 checks on leaders, members of the local governing body and trustees of the multi-academy trust, and record the results on the single central record.	18(2), 20(6)
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Part 5. Premises of and accommodation at schools

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations. Building work is on schedule, and the initial phase is due to be completed before pupils start school on 9 September 2019. Leaders have contingency plans if the building is not ready in time. Plans for the new school and a tour of the site indicate high-quality outdoor and indoor spaces, which have been designed specifically for pupils' needs. Classrooms are spacious. Pupils will also have access to facilities such as a dance studio and a library.

Part 6. Provision of information

The school is likely to meet all requirements. All the required policies are in place and available to parents, including an up-to-date safeguarding policy. The website is operational and already includes some of the required information. The school prospectus is detailed and gives relevant information to prospective parents and pupils. Examples of the school's reporting format are clear and give an evaluation of the progress each pupil has made towards their targets.

Part 7. Manner in which complaints are handled

The school is likely to meet all the requirements in this part. The complaints policy is comprehensive and well written. It contains all the necessary steps and timelines for the efficient handling of any complaints.

Part 8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

The school is likely to meet all regulations. The trust has experience of running the twin secondary boys' academy. Leaders have a good understanding of the regulatory requirements. They have drawn on expertise and knowledge within the trust to ensure that all standards are likely to be met. Policies and procedures are high quality and indicate that the welfare, health and safety of pupils will be strongly promoted. Leaders are clear about how they will continually review provision to ensure that it caters for pupils' needs and meets regulatory requirements.

Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010

The school is likely to meet all requirements. The policy identifies all groups with due regard to the protected characteristics, as identified in the Equality Act 2010. Plans for the new permanent building show that features such as lifts and adaptations are included.

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